

2014

The Edition, 4th of March, 2014

DIT News Society

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VINYL FANTASY SELLING MUSIC TO THE IRISH

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FLUSH BEATS A FULL HOUSE

FUNDING FOR CHAPLAINCY
WHILE COUNSELLING WAITING
ROOM OVERFLOWS

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'No shops? Then no levy' says DITSU, casting doubt over facilities at new campus

Union says it will not proceed with a referendum on the student levy unless "role, services and ethos" of the SU shops are maintained

DIT stands by its claim that all shops services on the new campus must go to public tender

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DIT's new Grangegorman campus could be without basic Societies, Sports and Clubs facilities for some time, as the impasse over the SU shop looks set to further delay a student levy referendum.

In a statement, DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick has said:

"DITSU's position is unequivocal on this matter and Student Council will not even be in a position to agree to a referendum [on the levy] unless there are particular guarantees in place."

One of the seven guarantees, contained in an agreement signed by DIT and DITSU in April 2013, states that

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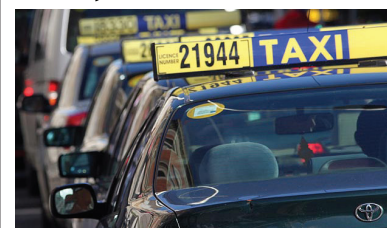
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SU elections underway

- ▶ Voting took place on the annex sites yesterday (pictured)
- ▶ Three days of voting at Bolton Street, Kevin Street, Cathal Brugha Street and Aungier Street, from today until Thursday
- ▶ Read *The Edition's* Sabbatical Interviews inside: Page 12-15

€80,000 on taxis



DIT's taxi bill for 2013 raises eyebrows

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'Disingenuous and misleading'



DIT responds to an SU accusation of interference

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All-Ireland champs



DIT Freshers A Football take the top prize

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Little-known Society mired in phone bugging rumours

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Champion of Democracy

Calls for DITSU member Ron to get national recognition

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One for all, all for one

Three-year scheme allows only one SU presidential nominee

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Institute of 'Technology'

Ben Finnegan says it's ironic that nothing works

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Letter from a grad

Graduate writes to students on BA in Early Childhood

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Culinary catastrophe

The Cathal Brugha canteen should be run by students

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Hannah Popham picks the worst Oscar outfits of all time

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Oddly specific, yet completely accurate

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The latest releases, praised and eviscerated, equally

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Three picks to watch on your next lazy Sunday

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The fall of Pharell

Once a great producer, now just a bit of an eejit

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Interview: Sean Kelly

Ben Finnegan meets the former GAA President

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Intervarsity roundup

Successes for Taekwondo, Waterpolo and Badminton

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Lynch Cup hopes end

Senior Ladies Football defeated in group stage

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In Numbers

€80,357
DIT's taxi bill for last year

20
Number of candidates across all DITSU officer positions for 14/15

1
Number of candidates for the DITSU presidency, for the third year in a row

6 out of 9
Best picture Oscar-nominees that are 'based on a true story'

23
Number of medals DIT Taekwondo took home from intervarsities this year

50%
Staff reduction at DIT Counselling over the past four years

THE DIGEST

Five minutes before class, this Edition summed up in brief

NEWS

'Disingenuous and misleading'

DITSU's claim that senior college management had interfered with events because they 'didn't like them' has been labelled "disingenuous and misleading" by the Institute. In a statement given to *The Edition*, the college said action has been required on numerous occasions over this year and before, as DITSU had acted in breach of DIT's Alcohol Policy

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NEWS

Academic boycott of Israeli institutions

Over 140 Irish academics from IT's and colleges across Ireland have signed a petition to boycott participation in Israeli academia in support of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC). The DIT contingent is the largest of all academic institutions on the petition to date. Lecturer Harry Browne has praised the determination of Palestinian people in seeking higher education.

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NEWS

Fashion Show nears final stages of preparation

The pros were drafted in last month as DIT's annual Fashion Show reaches crunch time, with Thalia Heffernan and Angelica Salomao making an appearance at Aungier St. This year's theme will be 'Enchanted Forest', with the aim of bringing a more colourful atmosphere than previous years. The event, sponsored by Vodafone, will take place on the 3rd of April.

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SPORT

All-Ireland Fresher win

DIT Fresher Footballers were crowned champions after a 1-13 to 0-10 win over St Mary's on Friday of last week.

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Write for
THE EDITION.
...or just tip us
off to the scéal.

NEWS

'On the Rocks' shortlisted

A new short film 'On The Rocks', concerned with the dangerous drinking habits of students was launched yesterday evening after it received a shortlisting for Dare2BDrinkAware.

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NOT THE PAGE 6 NEWS

All the news that's entirely made up

We report on DIT's GSoc scandal, the calls for the SU's Ron to get national recognition, and students' relief at the low number of SU election candidates.

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DITSU ELECTIONS

Sabbatical Interviews

The Edition talks to the eight candidates for DITSU's full-time paid positions. Three are up for VP Education, two for Welfare, two for Ents, and Fiachra Duffy is the presidential nominee.

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SPORT

Interview: Sean Kelly

The former GAA President says the players' best interests must be put first, and medical science followed, in the modern era.

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GAEILGE

Ar son ár gCearta

Maidin Shatharn 15 Feabhra, eagraíodh agóid ollmhór chun dul i ngleic leis an easpa tacaíochta don Ghaeilge sa státchóras.

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OPINION

Editorial

Red tape and red lines could leave a lot of red faces, if solutions can't be found ahead of the move to Grange-gorman. No SU shop and no facilities? It could be on the cards.

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ERASMUS DIARY

From Brussels with love

Our woman in Belgium, Stephanie Costello, writes about finding her way in a new city, and gives you a quick guide to getting by in the Belgian capital.

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FEATURES

The Boys of Killybegs

Eoghan McNeill visits the Donegal harbour, and finds out about the bit of pooching and divilment that goes on from time to time.

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CULTURE

Based on a true story...

Six of the nine best picture nominees at this year's Oscars fall into the "true story" category, and it certainly gives a film clout. But is that abused in Hollywood?

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LIFESTYLE

Talking shite about rugby

A quick guide for those who know nothing about the game, but want to appear otherwise. Key phrases included, such as: "Ah, rugby truly is a game of inches".

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CULTURE

Liza Flume, on a rocky road to Dublin

Culture Editor Joseph Conroy hears about Flume's plans for an album release, and how the Sydney-born artist came to settle in Dublin after travelling Europe for four years.

"While she's always loved music she almost gave up on any dreams of it ever taking her anywhere while living in New York. She felt overawed by some talented people she met there. But a chance encounter with a loop pedal changed that for her," he writes.

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OPINION

Culinary Arts and terrible food at Cathal Brugha St

Ciarán Hyland, Culinary Arts student and *Edition* columnist, says the North Side canteen should be returned to students who care about food, and can provide quality meals. Aramark's current offering pales in comparison to what students achieved up to 2009, he argues.

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Uncertainty surrounds Grangegorman facilities

"the role and services and ethos of the student shops be maintained".

Impasse over shops

As *The Edition* has reported throughout this year, DIT's stance on the matter is that due to public procurement procedures, all services at the new site must go to public tender.

DITSU could bid for the tender but could not be given a shop otherwise, the college has said.

DITSU has challenged that claim, arguing that a licence could be awarded to the Union while another shop is tendered, and has said that it is in possession of legal advice that supports this stance.

Referendum needed on levy

While DITSU need not support a levy, a vote will be required in order

for any additional charges to be imposed on students. DITSU's participation is essential for the organisation of the referendum.

As was recognised as far back as 2010, and re-emphasised by Student Council last April, additional funding will be needed in order to provide the level of facilities expected in Grangegorman by 2017.

The Department of Education and Skills does not fund dedicated student sports and recreational facilities.

A levy of around €100 to €200 per year on all students would generate funding for facilities such as sports pitches, a Black Box theatre, a campus gym, as well as a media hub and multi-purpose spaces.

The Council had previously emphasised the importance of holding a referendum on the levy before now,



Plans for student facilities at Grangegorman could remain as artist's impressions without a levy

when it mandated the DITSU President to investigate the feasibility of holding such a vote "preferably before December 2013, but no later than April 2014". The referendum will not, however, take place until the next academic year, according to DITSU.

Rifts form as patience wanes

The ongoing uncertainty over a levy, and the knock-on effect this could have for future students, is understood to have exacerbated the rift

between DITSU and DIT Clubs and Societies, as well as relationships with the college.

Patience is believed to be wearing thin on all sides as back-and-forths continue with little progress, and the overall Grangegorman project rapidly losing its lustre for those involved.

DIT and the SU are meeting next Tuesday in an attempt to resolve their ongoing disputes.

News Bulletin

Students demand answers over GG

A group of students are meeting with DIT President Brian Norton today, to discuss what they feel is a lack of clarity around the facilities they will have at Grangegorman this September.

By that stage, over 1200 students of Art, Design, Printing, Photography, and Social Sciences will be on campus, but questions remain over studio and storage space, and the proposal for 'hot-desking' first and second year Fine Art students.

Emma O'Leary, Class Rep for first-year Fine Art, described this as an "unacceptable" situation that would "damage our education within DIT", and told *The Edition* that students have spent the past two weeks "looking for answers to important issues, but we are yet to receive an answer".

Other questions have been raised in a student Facebook group for those who will be at Grangegorman this year, with many pointing to a lack of information on what will be in place for them.

DITSU VP for Welfare, Fiachra Duffy, has told *The Edition*: "It's really vague what will actually be there in September. Some students starting three-year courses in September will only ever know Grangegorman as a building site, and as yet we can't even tell them what will be there in 2014."

Every vote counts

DCU students voted to return to USI affiliation last week, with a referendum passing by only one vote.

In the third referendum on the issue in four years, 726 students voted Yes, and 725 voted No.

Turnout was approximately 12 percent of DCU's student body.

DITSU has written a letter to its counterpart, welcoming it back to USI.

DIT student wins Gaisce Gold

DIT student Rion Breslin was among those presented with a Gaisce Gold Medal at an awards ceremony held earlier this month.

The Gold Medal is presented in recognition of outstanding community work and significant personal achievements.

54 Gaisce Golds were given out at the ceremony held at Dublin Castle in early February.

Breslin, who is currently studying Business and Management in Aungier St, was recognised for her volunteering with St Catherine's Accordion Band, her personal efforts in the area of dance (including setting up her own dance school), raising money with a walking group, completing seven days on the Camino de Santiago and travelling to Talamarang, Nepal, to work in an orphanage for the residential part of the award.

— via DIT Press Office

DIT's €80,000 taxi bill for 2013

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DIT spent €80,357 on taxis in 2013, *The Edition* can reveal.

This figure, obtained under Freedom of Information includes all expenditure described as a taxi cost in DIT's accounts, including courier deliveries.

A spokesperson for the college defended the expense, telling *The Edition*:

"We aim to keep the use of taxis as low as possible, but bear in mind that DIT has a staff of some 2,000 people so there will always be some requirement for the services of a taxi."

The spokesperson also stated that taxis are typically not needed for travelling between campus locations, but if a number of people are travelling to the same venue for a meeting, it is often practical to use a taxi, both in

terms of time and expense.

"External examiners and other VIPs" were also mentioned, around 300 per year according to the spokesperson, who may be brought to a number of different campus locations.

Higher than expected

The Edition also spoke to a range of senior and long-serving staff about the use of taxis in DIT, none of whom estimated the cost to be as high as the revealed figure.

The expenditure figures highlight the perennial difficulties of DIT's disparate campuses throughout Dublin, and further demonstrate its long-standing need for a single site.

The DIT spokesperson said of the relocation to Grangegorman: "As we move to a single campus, we would expect transport costs to reduce. However, colleagues visiting other institutions in Ireland or abroad will still need to use taxis to/from railway



stations and airports and these costs are included in the overall figure."

Questions will also be raised over the need for such a high figure, with budget cuts across all areas of the college taking a toll over recent years.

Taxi bill in recent context

- €25,000 – given to the Student Assistance Fund by DIT last month, described by DITSU as "nowhere near enough"
- +
- €25,000 – given by the college to Counselling, which is struggling with under-staffing and under-resourcing
- +
- €30,000 – could not be found this year to provide an Academic Writing Centre, meaning it will now open in September

DITSU elections take place this week

Staff Writer

Elections are taking place this week for Student Union sabbatical and college officer positions.

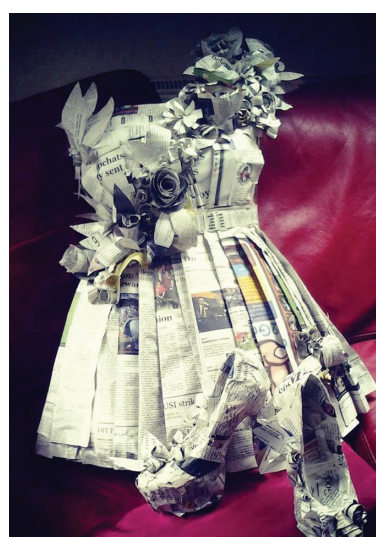
Voting was held yesterday at Linen Hall, Portland Row, BIMM and Temple Bar.

Today, tomorrow and Thursday will see voting held at the largest campuses between 10am and 8pm each day.

This will include Bolton St, Aungier St, Kevin St and Cathal Brugha St, including further voting at BIMM today, until 5pm.

Any member of the Union can vote, which covers all students, with a valid student card or photo ID.

There are eight candidates across the four sabbatical positions this year, plus twelve college officer candidates, including the first ever Grangegorman Officer position.



The Edition put to good use... for once

Staff Writer

Old copies of *The Edition* have been used to create an original outfit as part of an Art and Design assignment.

Creator Aisling Cassidy said of the project: "The Edition is free to students and there was a lot in Mountjoy Square so I thought of using them. I also thought it would be easier than asking if I could take all the newspapers from a shop, without having to explain myself to them or them thinking I'm a crazy newspaper person."

“ THE EDITION HAVE YOUR SAY

After another crushing defeat, **Leonardo Di Caprio** shares his disappointment with *The Edition*, and we look back at how his reaction has changed over the years



"It's just great to be nominated as a young actor, to be mentioned in the same breath as these stars is such an honour"

What's Eating Gilbert Grape?

Nominated for Best Supporting Actor

(1994)



"Obviously I'm a bit disappointed but the winner was well-deserved. I'm still young, there's plenty of time"

The Aviator

Nominated for Best Actor

(2005)



"I really thought I had a good chance with this one. But that's just the way it goes with this Academy"

Blood Diamond

Nominated for Best Actor

(2007)

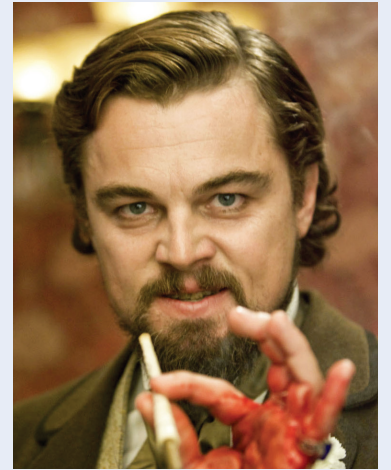


"I'm not accusing anyone of anything, but I just think there are questions that have to be asked"

The Departed

BAFTA Nominated for Best Actor

(2007)



"Matthew Mc-God-Damn-Conaughy? Are you serious? It's not alright alright alright!"

The Wolf of Wall Street

Nominated for Best Actor

(2014)

DIT students launch DrinkAware film 'On the Rocks'

Film shortlisted for this year's DARE2BDRINKAWARE campaign

Eoghan Regan
NEWS EDITOR

A new short film 'On The Rocks', concerned with the dangerous drinking habits of students was launched yesterday evening after it received a shortlisting for the DARE2B-DRINKAWARE campaign.

The film is being produced by Shauna Costello, who had been part of a shortlisted team as part of the DrinkAware competition, as well as members of her Film and Broadcasting class in order to highlight the dangers of "drinking in unauthorized areas".

The film and its script were created by Shauna Costello, Ciarán McNamara and Gerard Higgins features shots of students drinking on the beach giving the short its title, 'On the Rocks'.

Ms Costello hopes the film will make students more aware of the dan-

gers of drinking in restricted areas.

"When you've been drinking, you become less aware of your surroundings, this coupled with the lack of restrictions can be very dangerous.

"As students we understand the drinking culture associated with college and I think this understanding definitely helps us make a more effective campaign as we essentially are our target audience."

Despite a last-minute cancellation by the film's lead actor, the second year film and Broadcasting students were able to rally against the weather and complete shooting the film.

Students' relationship with alcohol

Speaking about the recent social media fad of Nekonominations Costello explained, "The unfortunate outcome of the Nekonominations really brought what Dare2b are trying to do to the forefront of the media. The phenomenon of the Nekonominations



Pictured here is Costello, McNamara and Higgins, with Fionnula Sheehan (CEO of Drink Aware) and the team's mentor Sinéad Kennedy (presenter of Winning Streak)

really highlights how drinking among students is a real problem and how susceptible we can be to peer pressure."

Costello explained how the intention of the film is not to deter students from drinking but rather to make

them more aware of the dangers of student drinking: "We are not trying to stop students from drinking, we are trying to encourage sensible drinking habits."

RTE's Sinead Kennedy will be present at the launch of the film and has

mentored the crew through their entire campaign.

The film's launch, which took place in room 4079 in Aungier Street yesterday evening, included a giveaway of a €100-worth of cinema vouchers.

DIT labels an SU statement 'disingenuous and misleading'

DITSU accused senior management last month of interfering with events because they 'didn't like them'

College rejects that claim, says past interference has been necessary due to repeated infringement of DIT's Alcohol Policy

Al McConnell
EDITOR

DIT has labelled a statement made by DITSU as “disingenuous and misleading”, in response to part of the ‘State of the Union’ address reported in the last issue of *The Edition*.

In the address, the Union claimed that DIT had threatened to pull the October 2013 Mystery Trip because “they didn’t like it”, and made criticism of the Institute’s dealing with this issue.

DIT has now stated that an intervention was made due to the Union acting in breach of the DIT alcohol policy.

In a statement given to *The Edition*, DIT said:

“Over a twelve month period, the Institute was obliged to intervene on a number of occasions, as the approach adopted to the promotion of alcohol at Students’ Union events and in talks to new students was irresponsible, and

in clear breach of the alcohol policy.”

DITSU VP for Events, Will Meara, has challenged this, telling *The Edition*: “The Union has not once breached the Alcohol Policy during my term as VP.”

Multiple infringements cited

DIT’s statement goes on to outline incidents that it says breached the Policy, including 2012 class induction talks, which reportedly received complaints from students and staff that the Union’s input in these had “a major focus on alcohol”.

DIT also states that during other 2012 induction week events new students were brought to bars and encouraged to participate in drinking games.

“A sabbatical officer poured drink down students’ throats using a funnel and pipe (beer bong). Multiple photos of this were put up on the DIT-SU Facebook page. The photos were removed following intervention from the Institute, as they were in clear breach of the Alcohol Policy,” the

statement read.

Other incidents are mentioned, including complaints over the August 2013 ‘SU Guide to Work Play Life’, which had a “strong focus on alcohol”, and 2013 inductions, which DIT claims had a focus on alcohol and made some international and mature students uncomfortable.

Reference is also made to the DIT-SU Facebook promotion page for the October 2013 Mystery Trip, including its ‘Gumball List’ of tasks such as ‘drink a shot upside down’, ‘shotgun a can’ and ‘drink a pint through another lad’s sock’. DIT states that this is in “clear breach of the Alcohol Policy, and on this occasion the Students’ Union was instructed to remove the marketing material for the event”.

Meara again disagrees, saying the list was purely promotional and the Union stated at the time that it did not accept responsibility for its contents.

Alcohol Policies

The DIT statement continues:



Will Meara is this year's VP for Events at DITSU

“Promotions of this nature are completely unacceptable and an email was sent to three sabbatical officers and the CEO of DITSU expressing deep concern about the irresponsible nature of the promotion. An external expert on the national guidelines for alcohol promotion was consulted in this case, and confirmed that the promotion was in serious breach of national guidelines. It should be stated that the Institute has also intervened in some Society events over the past few years, where there was an undue emphasis on alcohol.

“The Alcohol Policy has been put in

place in order to protect DIT students. There is a clear link between risky drinking behaviours among students (drinking games, etc) and mental health issues, unprotected sex, and physical injury.

“Recent tragic events have brought this into clear focus. As part of its duty of care to students, the Institute will continue to implement the Alcohol Policy and to intervene in cases where there is a breach of the policy. The Students’ Union in DIT has supported the Alcohol policy over many years, as do other Student Unions across the country.”

DIT staff sign academic boycott of Israel

Eoghan Regan
NEWS EDITOR

Over 140 Irish academics from IT’s and colleges across Ireland have signed a petition to boycott participation in Israeli academia in support of the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC).

Among the 140 signatories are 25 DIT academics who have pledged to “not to engage in any professional association with Israeli academic, research and state institutions and with those representing these institutions, until such time as Israel complies with international law and universal principles of human rights”.

The DIT contingent is the largest of all academic institutions on the petition to date.

Harry Browne, a lecturer in Journalism at DIT described his motivations to sign the pledge as coming from a trip he took last year to Gaza where he witnessed the subjugation of the Palestinian people, writing on *The Journal.ie*:

“The conditions endured by 1.8 million people there under Israeli siege were sickening to behold, but so was their determination to live normal lives, with higher education an esteemed part of that...”



The conditions endured by 1.8 million people there under Israeli siege was sickening to behold, but so was their determination to live normal lives, with higher education as an esteemed part of that

– DIT lecturer Harry Browne

Omar Barghout, a leading member of Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) welcomed the act of solidarity by Irish Academics, drawing comparison between the plight of the Palestinian people and the plight of the Irish under colonial Britain.

“This is further evidence that the people of Ireland, who keenly understand the cruelty of colonialism from their own history and who appreciate the immense value of international solidarity in resisting colonial rule, are again standing on the right side of history, supporting this nonviolent movement for Palestinian freedom, justice and equality, as they had done against apartheid South Africa.”

An important pledge

The pledge had been launched on the 20th of February this year with key speeches being given by Irish Ac-

ademics, English academics as well as Israeli film-maker, Haim Bresheeth. Each speaker stated the importance of the pledge made. One commentator described it as the “civic action of citizens and academics who take up their responsibility”.

The decision by the Irish academics to join this boycott will stand them alongside a global network of third level institutions who have already stopped engagement with Israeli academic institutions, colleges from Canada to Australia have already signed a similar pledge.

Support for the pledge was far reaching, including comments from Israeli academic Ilan Pappen who said “History would judge each of those who bravely stood alongside the Palestinians in their just struggle for peace and justice as playing a crucial role in ending yet another evil chapter in human history.”

Academic Writing Centre to go ahead next year

Al McConnell
EDITOR

An Academic Writing Centre (AWC) will be in place in DIT from September 2014, but could be launched as early as the start of May, it has been announced.

A proposal to part-fund the Centre was approved at the recent Student Life Council, meaning it will be in place on a pilot basis for three years.

Speaking to *The Edition*, Jen Harvey of the Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre, who has been championing the AWC, said the aim will be to provide free, non-judgemental writing help to any student, undergraduate or postgraduate, regardless of course, degree or level.

Individuals and groups will be able to access resources and books, with a tutor available to help. Students may also be able to book one-to-one appointments with peer tutors.

In the longer term, discipline-specific supports are also hoped for, which could bring in staff to conduct workshops near assignment deadlines.

“The intention is to launch the Centre in early May. In preparation for the launch, we are now planning to

conduct an initial scoping study to determine how best to provide a service to the Institute.”

Planning the best services

The study will determine the supports that should be provided by the Centre, and will look at similar models in other institutions, as well as similar services already available in DIT and online.

“We want to be as effective and as useful as we can,” said Harvey.

A useful comparator will be DIT’s Maths Learning Support Centre, which was re-launched for this year, and has been well-regarded so far.

“We are lucky to have strong links with the MLSC and would be intending to work closely with them,” said Harvey. “This will provide a good foundation for the proposed Centralised ‘Student Success For All’ Centre, proposed in Grangegorman.”

The Academic Writing Centre will be co-ordinated by María-José González, of DIT Languages.

It had been hoped that the Centre would be in place this semester, but the plan was called off at a Student Finance Committee meeting in November, when it was felt that €30,000 could not be made available.

~~NEWS~~ NOT THE PAGE 6 NEWS

...BECAUSE WE MADE IT UP

DIT's GSOC mired in bugging scandal

Bugsy Mafone
COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

Little-known DIT society GSOC has been fighting off a major scandal in recent weeks, after it emerged via *The Sunday Edition* that its offices may have been bugged.

Allegations were made that a UK-based university society may have been listening in on the GSOC, a society linked to the DIT course Garda Síochána Ombudsman Studies with a Language.

It is unclear, however, why anyone would be interested in the goings-on of a DIT society.

DIT was also dragged into the scandal when private security experts Verrimus suggested that the bugging equipment was of the kind only available to college senior management, but a spokesperson has stringently



DIT – "The only college that really listens to its students"

denied any involvement:

"We have absolutely no interest in GSOC. We have little to no interest in any DIT societies for that matter – in fact, the existence of DIT students barely registers with us," he said.

Societies Officer Madza Hatter has also denied any involvement in the bugging, which he was not informed about in the first case due to a "strategic decision" made by GSOC, a de-

cision based on the fact that he was "an eejit and the littler he knew, the better".

"The suggestion of bugging is clearly incorrect and I do not consider the allegations to be in any way serious or worrying," said Hatter, who went on to clarify that by saying: "However, it is simply not good enough that I was not informed of these very serious and worrying allegations. There is an obligation under the DIT Act that I would be informed...well, not the DIT Act actually, but certainly under another law...and not an obligation as such, but I would have liked a phone call."

GSOC has since upgraded its security, after being forced to hold its meetings in the basement of the Aungier St campus, which cannot be accessed by any WiFi or mobile phone signals.

An inquiry will now be held. Follow this story online at nonsense.ie

DITSU member 'Ron' to receive national recognition

Mike Turn-Doff
DITSU ELECTIONS CORRESPONDENT

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is expected to honour DITSU member Mr Reopen Nominations, more commonly known as RON, as he prepares to run for DITSU president this year.

"To be the only other candidate Presidential candidate at DIT for the past three years in a row, accept de-

feat and to fluster the courage to stand again requires a special talent. This is why we wanted to honour him with a life time achievement award," said a USI spokesperson.

The national student body was also impressed with RON's alternative electioneering style.

"To run no obvious election campaign, his constant refusal to speak at DITSU hustings, never possessing campaign manager flouting the normal electioneering rules and yet still

getting his name on the ballot paper is highly admirable.

"Mr Nominations' continued presence is the answer our critics who say student representation is unattractive has been beset by student apathy in recent years," said the USI spokesperson.

Minister for Education Ho Chi Quinn, who himself was a student activist in the 1960s praised RON similarly. "During my days as a student activist at Earlsfort Terrace we would not have stood for not being allowed speak like RON does.

"For RON to allow himself to be ignored for so long is incredible. He embodies the unfettered student voice of May 1968."

Students relieved at low number of SU candidates

Three-year pilot scheme of limiting number of presidential candidates to one receives praise

Eoin Fairhand
DITSU ELECTIONS CORRESPONDENT

DIT students have heaved a collective sigh of relief at the lack of contest across DITSU election positions.

With only eight candidates running for SU sabbatical positions, a weight has been lifted for students who may have had to consider the merits of several nominees.

"It's a big relief, I thought this year there might actually be a race," said one student, wiping sweat from his brow as he read the list of candidates.

"If you have any more than two people for all these positions it can get a bit much and I think students lose interest," he continued. "This way,

we can all participate in a full, open democracy without actually having to know anything about the candidates. It's just much more efficient."

Another student expressed disappointment at the VP Education race, which has three candidates.

"This was nearly the best year yet," she said, "but in the Education race we'll have to find out about three different ones. Re-open nominations might be the safe bet there, and hopefully only one person will go for it in the next round."

Students in other colleges throughout the country have expressed anger online that their Unions do not take the same approach as DITSU, keeping the number of candidates low and many of the same names from previous years.



"One candidate for pres at DITSU and I had to pick from three?! Waste of my time", tweeted one onlooker.

One For All and All For One

This is the third year in a row that the DITSU presidential race has gone uncontested, and many are now suggesting that this pilot scheme should be adopted on a full-time basis, and perhaps rolled out across the other sabbatical categories.

"We're considering a 'One For All and All For One' campaign that would limit it to one candidate for every position," said a source within the Union. "Students have huge pressure on their time without being told to choose between four or even five candidates, which other colleges irresponsibly allow to happen."

DITSU Update

Anti-harrassment T-shirts issued to students during for election week



...But this has actually happened –Ed.

UK deploys forces to border in response to DITSU 'direct militant action' claims

Emma Teethretts
SECURITY CORRESPONDENT

The British Government has deployed a temporary constabulary force in preparation for DITSU's "direct militant action".

It comes after peace talks between members of the Student Council and DIT board representatives reached an impasse over plans for a DITSU shop on the Grangegorman site.

Exactly what DITSU President Glenn Fitzpatrick meant by his call

to "militant action" is still unknown, but it has stirred major concern in DIT and neighbouring sovereign states.

It is believed that it may involve a sustained guerrilla woopie cushion campaign against key DIT figures, staying up way after bedtime, as well as occupying strategic Dublin Institute of Technology toilet cubicles.

Fitzpatrick and his unarmed, but slightly annoyed, rebels are believed to be holed up somewhere off Bishop Street, Dublin 2.

DIT President Brian Norton presents Grangegorman plans to then Taoiseach Brian Cowen, in 2010



DIT Fashion Show preparations near final stages

Eoghan Regan
NEWS EDITOR

With only a month to go the DIT Fashion Show is well underway, with new themes, a new choreographer and with new guidance from famed Irish models Thalia Heffernan and Angelica Salomao.

'Enchanted Forest – Hidden Nature' will be theme of this year's annual fashion display, a theme which will "Bring some colour to this year's show," according to the Fashion Society's Public Relations Officer Daniel Kelly. "It is typically quite a dark event and we wanted to change that. We want the Enchanted Forest to be filled with magic and mystical creatures. Forests are filled with darkness but we're looking at those hidden beautiful elements of nature that shine and radiate."

The new choreographer will replace Shireen McDonagh who had occupied the role for the last eight years and provide "a whole new take on how the



Daniel Kelly and Hannah Glendon, of the Fashion Show Committee, pictured with Thalia Heffernan and Angelica Salomao

models will walk and the various routines."

Learning from the pros

Both Thalia Heffernan and Angelica Salomao have been lending their experience to the student designers and models, correcting postures and walking techniques, "remember that your face is on show also as often models focus on the walk without realising their face looks strained."

"Keep back and head up straight as if someone is pulling your hair. Move your arms gracefully as you walk. Keep

in tone with the music. If you're smaller you need to take longer strides to create a more elegant stride".

The show also hopes to incorporate more societies, employing the talents of the various societies in DIT. "Famous DJ's" might also feature as part of an 'after party' which is in development.

Jack and Jill, a charity which deals with children with disabilities will also receive donations from this year's show: "They're a wonderful organisation and for every €16 raised they can provide 1 hour's care



The two models came to Aungier St to provide advice and pass on their experience to this year's participants

to a child with brain damage in their own home."

Preparations are also being made for two promotional videos in anticipation of the ticket launch on the 10th of March.

The show will take place on the 3rd of April this year and promises to be one of the largest events on the DIT calendar.

IT system inadequacies in DIT cause results delays

AI McConnell
EDITOR

Many students across DIT will receive their exam results tomorrow, a month later than most, as IT system inadequacies forced Exam Boards to postpone meetings.

The release date for results was updated after senior staff realised they could not determine which classes certain students had taken in the modular system.

A small number of students who made mistakes in their filling out of modular selection forms were down for either too many courses, or the wrong ones, and no fail-safe was in place to account for these mistakes throughout the year.

System failings

Following the delays, an official DIT page stated: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, results for all courses in DIT Cathal Brugha Street are not available. As soon as dates have been confirmed by the Schools, we will update this page."

However, Dr Dominic Dillane, Head of the School of Hospitality Management & Tourism, told *The Edition*: "The fundamental problem here is that there isn't an Information System in place to support the modularisation that we have within Cathal Brugha St college – it's an IT issue, but it's something that should have been in place from the first day that modularisation came in."

Dillane also emphasised that no blame is being placed on students, the exams office, registrations or lecturers. It is a system problem and one that will need to be fixed.

"I am not blaming students at all for this. There will always be a few problems with the modular registrations, around 10 percent maybe that fill in the options incorrectly or forget to do so, that sort of thing, but the system should be in place for that."

"DIT introduced modularisation but without the system to support it," he said.

Dr Frank Cullen, Acting Head of the School of Culinary Arts & Food Technology stated: "If the exam board were to run on the planned date it would have required that students having a number of optional modules they did not deselect, recorded as a fail on their record. This approach would have cause greater issues, but for fewer students."

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	12.30pm				12.30pm		12.30pm
					3.30pm		
					4.30pm		
	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm
					7.30pm		8.30pm
Dept Dublin	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Route B to Derry & Inishowen	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	
							12.30pm
					3.30pm		
	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	5.45pm	
							8.30pm

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DIT Samba Soc makes front page of the Metro Herald

Kodaline

Choice Prize nominees tell Adam White about their sound »p17

WHEELS

Is the self-driving car really that far fetched, asks Niall O'Hara »p16

I was run over by 'Father Ted' milk float

by DAVID RALEIGH

A WIDOW who claimed she was knocked down by a milk float used in the cult comedy show *Father Ted* has settled a High Court action for damages.

Geraldine Naughton, 59, claimed she was pinned under the float driven by a man dressed as Fr Dougal after it drove up against the curb of a temporary roundabout and rolled over her left leg, leaving her with a fracture to the tip of her lower leg.

The court heard the milk float was "driven erratically" by Fr Dougal during a *Father Ted* festival in Kiltinure, Co Clare, in 2008.

Ms Naughton, of Lahinch Road, Ennis, Co Clare, claimed that while helping to push the float in order to increase publicity for a charity fundraiser, she fell after she was driven up against a curb and a wheel passed over her leg.

The fundraiser was organised by and for Down Syndrome Ireland, and involved pushing a replica of the vehicle from the Speed 3 episode of the comedy series – a parody of the Hollywood film *Speed* – 10km from Ennistymon to Kiltinure. The *Father Ted* festival – run by Friends of Ted Ltd, which organises events themed on the show, and has its office at 27 The Laureates, Taylor's Hill, Galway – was taking place in Kiltinure at the time.

Senior Counsel Michael McMahon asked the court to strike out the matter after it was heard an undisclosed settlement was agreed with no admission of liability.

A new feather in her cap

Student Kirsty McLoughlin helps launch Carnival-DIT, Dublin Institute of Technology's Samba Carnival, which takes place on March 5 at Dublin's Grand Social bar in aid of Barretstown camp for sick children

Also inside: Sport, Celebs, Mailbox, TV, Body Matters and more

Keep Dublin tidy - Please recycle this Metro Herald when you are finished with it

Kirsty McLoughlin of DIT's Samba Society was pictured on the front page of the *Metro Herald* last Wednesday, as the Soc put on a teaser show for tomorrow's DIT-Carnival.

The event will be held in the

Grand Social, and will bring "the sights and sounds of Carnival to Dublin," according to a Soc spokesperson.

Tickets are €5 for students and €7 otherwise, with all proceeds going to Barretstown.

Slán Le Seán Agus Dia Duit Rónán Ó Dómhnaill

Siobhán Nic Uidhir

Tá neart scríofa maidir le héirí as an Choimisinéara Teanga Seán Ó Chuirreann ach anois, is féidir linn féach i dtreo an todhchaí tar éis Comisinéir nua an Oifig a ghlacadh. Tá an t-iriseoir Rónán Ó Domhnaill ceapaithe ag an Rialtas mar chomharba ar an Uasal Ó Cuirreáin. Tagann Ó Domhnaill as Ceathrú Rua i nGaelacht Chonamara agus tá sé lonnaithe Sa Spidéal. Níl an oifig rófhada uaidh!



An Coimisinéir Teanga nua, Rónán Ó Domhnaill

Dúirt Ó Domhnaill go mór an ónair agus pribhléid é, i ndiaidh a bheith ainmnithe ar an chéad dul síos don ról tábhachtach seo. Is comhfhreagraí polaitíochta le Nuacht RTÉ agus TG4 é Rónán. Cuireann sé an clár seachtainiúil cúrsaí reatha, The Week in Politics, i láthair ar RTÉ go rialta chomh maith.

Chuir duine is fiche iarratais isteach don phost mar Chomisinéir Teanga nua. Maireann an tréimhse ceapúcháin sé bhliain agus tá tuarastal €115,000 ag baint leis an phost.

Dúirt an tiar-Coimisinéir, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, comhghairdeas le Rónán fosta agus ghuigh sé gach rath air agus é ag cur chearta teanga chun cinn. D'fhógair Ó Cuirreáin go raibh sé le héirí as a phost de bharr gur chreid sé go raibh an Stát ag déanamh faillí i gcearta teanga phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

Bhí siúilóid mór eagraithe chun slán a rá le Seán ar an lá a d'fhág sé a phost go hoifigiúil. Bhí na céadta daoine ag máirseáil ó hOifig an Chomisinéara Teanga sa Spidéal soir chomh fada le Roinn na Gaeltachta sna Forbacha. Bhí an slua ag iarraidh litir a thabhairt do Seán Ó Cuirreáin ag gabháil buíochais leis.

De réir Feidhlim Seoige, leas uachtarán don Ghaeilge in Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn "léiríonn éirí as Seán Uí Chuirreáin an drochmheas atá ag an Rialtas don teanga, nach bhfuil seirbhísí bunúsacha an Stáit ar fáil trí Ghaeilge.

Nuair A Shúileamar Ar Son Ár gCearta

Cormac Dunne

Maidin Shatharn 15 Feabhra, eagraíodh agóid ollmhór chun dul i ngleic leis an easpa tacaíochta don Ghaeilge sa státchóras.

Rud suimiúil faoin eachtra ná gur eagraíodh é go fórmhór ar an gréasán sóisialta Facebook, an chéad uair, chomh fada agus go bhfuil a fhios agam, go bhfuil aon rud mar seo tar éis a bheith déanta trí Ghaeilge.

Bhailigh Cumann Gaelach IT Bhaile Átha Cliath sa scéim cónaithe an maidin seo chun Bricfeasta Ollmhór a ithe agus turaimí faoin lá a roinnt. D'uillmhaigh Siobhán Nic Uidhir an bricfeasta dúinne, agus rinne sí an-jab as. Luath go leor bhí an bord lán le uibheacha scrofa, slicíní bagún agus pióga dhubb 's bhán.

Dar ndóigh níor mhair an bia blasta ró-fhada, agus nuair a chríochnaigh cách phléidh muid go léir cén fáth go rabhamar ann agus céard go chóir a bheith athruithe i ndiaidh. Bhí tromlach den tuairim go chóir go ndéanfaidh an Rialtas níos mó iarrachta ó thaobh na Gaeilge a ghlacadh de, ach bhíos féin den thuirim díreach a

mhalairt. É sin nach n-athróidh rud ar bith...

Bhog an maidin ar aghaigh agus mar sin bhí orainn an Scéim Chonaithe a fhágáil agus ar aghaidh chuig an agóid í féin. Shiúmar go léir trasna go Sráid Uí Chonaill, an t-ionad choinní don mháirseáil, agus bhí iontas go léir orainn nuair a chonaiceamar go léir slua ollmhór baillithe ann.

Beidh mise an chéad duine le admháil nach raibh mé ag tnúth le mórán daoine, agus ní raibh mé in ann creidiúint an méid a bhí ann. Deirtear go raibh 10,000 Gaelgóirí ann an lá sin. Bhí siad go léir ann, ar dtús I gCearnóg Parnell, ionas go gcloisfidh an Rialtas a nguthanna. Tháinig Gaelgóirí ó gach cúinne den tír, ó thuaidh theas, chun páirt a ghlacadh agus a bhfeirge a léiriú faoi theipeadh an Rialtais.

Le linn an siúlóid go Teach Laighlin bhí go leor cantaireachta le cloisteáil cosúil le "Táimid dearg, dearg le fearg", "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam" agus "Cearta teanga, cearta daonna". Nuair a bhíomar ag siúl síos Sráid Uí Chonaill bhí na mílte ag stopadh 's ag tógáil

griangrafanna, agus bhí tonchar an máirseáil soléir le feiceáil.

Taobh amuigh den Dáil bhí stáitse ann, agus thosaigh an fíor agóid anseo. I measc go leor cantaireachta eile, labhair cúpla duine faoi ábhar an lá seo, é sin cearta teanga a bheith i láthair i seirbhísí stáite.

Tháinig buachaill óg trí bhliana d'aois chun thosaigh, laid a thógadh trí Gaeilge amháin, agus léidh a Mhaim ós ard litir a scríobh sé don Rialtas. Bhí an slua go léir faoi gheasa na focail a scríobh sé, agus tá sé deacair le creidiúint sa lá atá inniu go bhfuil duine sa tír gan Béarla ar bith. Léiríonn sé an dílseacht atá ag teastál chun an teanga a spreagadh arís.

Labhair Feighlim Seoige faoin lucht óige sa slua, agus an obair a dhéanann Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn i gcomhair an teanga.

I ndiaidh seo labhair Julien de Spáinn, duine atá tar éis a bheith a obair ar feadh fiche mbliain anuas do Chonradh na Gaeilge ar son na Gaeilge. Bhí sé ar fheabhas ar fad, agus lig sé don slua ar fad a dorn a croith san aer chun a tacaíocht a thaispeáint, and mana a bhí aige ná

"roghnaím todhchaí dár dteanga".

I ndiaidh an óráid seo tháinig na bannaí ceol "Na Firéin" agus "Seo Linn" amach ar an ardáin. Tá aithne ag go leor daoine ar an mbanna ceol nua aimseartha "So Linn" óna bhfíseáin cáiliúla ar YouTube, go háirithe an cluadach den amhrán Avicci. Sheinn na Firéin an t-amhrán "Tír na nÓg", a bhfuil ar eolas ag go leor daoine, agus in iomlán bhain gach duine taitneamh as an gceol beo.

Lá iontach a bhí ann, ach tá an Lagóid críochnaithe anois gan aon athrú tar éis teacht. Faraor, sílim go leanfaidh an teaspa aicsean seo ar aghaidh mar, uaireanta, is cuma le formhór na tíre faoin ár dteanga dúchais. Roghnaím féin todhchaí dár dteanga agus roghnaíonn cuid eile ar nós mise féin, ach ní roghóidh go leor daoine é chun aon difríocht a dhéanamh.

Is tús le feachtas dian seo nach mbeidh torthaí gasta ag teacht as, mar caithfear dul i ngleic lena bunfhabanna faoi sheirbhísí Ghaeilge sa Stáit. B'fhéidir go lenaifaidh sé ar aghaidh le toradh suntasach.



8,000 Dorn san aer le fearg, ar Lá Mór na Gaeilge

EAGARTHÓR

Dlús Ar Ais Sa Phobal Agus Muide Sa Lár

STIOFÁN Ó CONNACHTAIGH
EAGARTHÓR GHAELIGE



Don chéad uair choíche i mo chuidimhne féin, tá dlús á fhorbairt i ngluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus táim áit éigin idir an lár agus an glan imeall.

Tá sé de bharúil ag an iar Choimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, nach mór eile atá sa Státchóras ach cur i gcéill i leith na teanga agus easpa toil pholaitíochta an chóras a réitiú.

Táthair ag tnúth le ollslua i mBéal Feirste nuair a shúilfear ar son chearta bunúsacha teanga ó thuaidh. Bhí na céadta ag siúil i gConamara mar léiriú fearga i ndiaidh eirigh as an Choimisinéara agus na seirbhísí phoiblí Ghaeltachta. Tháinig na teanga amach ar son chearta teanga phoiblí ó theas ar Lá Mór na Gaeilge.

Ní thig liom teacht ar thír eile mar Éirinn, ina mbéadh gá do leitheidí

agóideach. Aon áit eile ina bhfuil teanga dúchais le pobal mionlach beo, teanga atá in ainm is a bheith á cosaint ag an Stát ach atá faoi bhrú mar thoradh den Státchóras féin. Aon áit eile ina mbféifeá i do ghealt as an teanga náisiúnta a úsáid. Tá an phobal sin faoi bhrú áfach agus agus tá níos mó acu ag eirí réigh le troid.

An cuma faoina stádas bunreachtúil, nó na straitéis galanta nó chóras riachtanach scoile muna bhfuil na bunseirbhísí ar fáil as Gaeilge do chách? Cén ciall atá ann le teanga a mhúineadh dúinn le haghaidh 14 bhliain agus ansin í a dhiúltiú sa gnáthsaol?

Tá mise sa lár é seo. Ní theastaíonn uaim a bheith ach is gá dom, níl a dara rogha agam. Táim sa ghlan imeall ar bhealach fosta mar is Bearlóir mé, amach is amach, a fhoghlaim ón leabhar amháin.

Is tú i do chónaí sa Ghalltacht dá shaol ar fad agus a bheith ag iarraidh do chuid Gaeilge a úsáid; níl sé éasca.

In aineoinn go dúradh liom ar scoil i dtólamh tábhacht í a fhoghlaim, ní hiad ach bacanna a chuirtear ós mo chomhair ón uair a rinne mé an rogha í a úsáid.

Nuair a bhí mé sa chéad bhliain ar choláiste, chuir mé isteach ar an thástáil thiomána ach ní bhfuair mé fiú dáta don scrúdú féin go dtí beagnach 10 mhí ina dhiaidh, toisc nach raibh duine le Gaeilge ar fáil chun teacht go dtí mo shuíomh áitiúil. Sa tríú bhliain anois, d'eirigh liom sa scrúdú beag-

nach bliain ó shin agus táim fós gan ceadúnas, de dheasca "rialacha" agus "coinníollacha" úrnua a chuirtear ós mo chomhar le "comhlíonadh" achan uair a théim isteach.

Cé chomh aimeadach is a bhí mé le smaointeamh go mbéadh sé in ndán dom rogha a dhéanamh i dtreo na Gaeilge in Éirinn féin.

Sampla eile ná gur sheol An Post Spacáiste de mo chuid amuigh go dtí Oileán Árainn mar ní thuigeadh leagan Gaeilge mo sheoladh baile. Níl chónaí orm in Árainn.

Is cuma faoi mo phacáiste nó mó cheadúnas, an rud a chuireann isteach orm ná go bhfuil an Béarla á chur chun cinn mar theanga an Stáit agus tuilleadh brú á chur ar an Ghaeilge. Ní glactar láí sa chóras agus sin í an fhirinne. Níl an cumas na seirbhísí a sholáthar mar is ceart chun cinntiú go bhfuil fáil ar an teanga go héasca don phobal.

Glac mé le seo go dtí seo ach ní thig liom a thuilleadh. Má táimid dárfa faoi teanga seo a shábháil agus a athghabáil, caithfear dul i ngleic leis an bhunfhadhb agus sin é an brú atá uirthi mar theanga labhartha.

Níl á lorg ach tacaíocht in ionad brú, mar ní mhairfidh sí i bhfad muna choimeádtar beo í.

Cén ciall atá ann le teanga a mhúineadh dúinn le haghaidh 14 bhliain agus ansin í a dhiúltiú sa gnáthsaol?

Stíl Sráide

Tara Ní Cheileachar

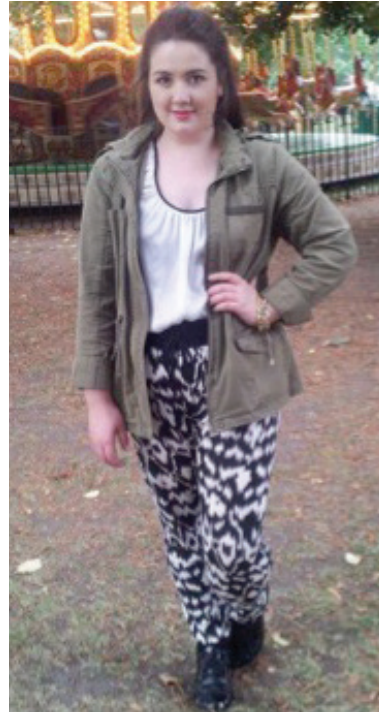
AGUS

Aine Ní Beirne

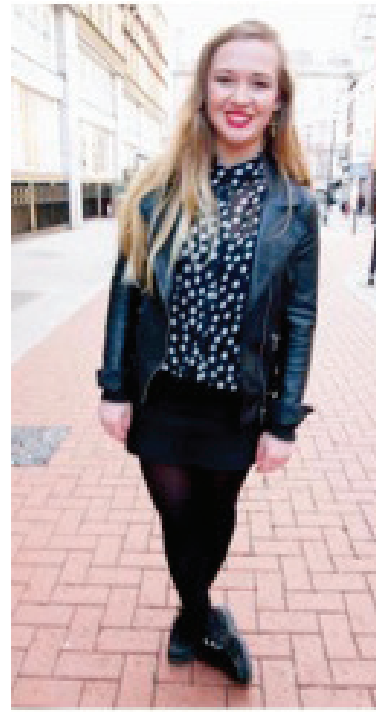
Ag an gceolchorim Macklemore ar tús na bliana, dhúirt an tamhránaí go raibh sé i ngrá le hÉirinn mar tá an daonra an-faiseanta ar fad! Agus ní raibh sé ag greannaíocht. Tá píosa ar Street Style i ngach iris in Éirinn as Kiss go dtí LIFE go dtí *The Westmeath Examiner* agus níl aon rud difriúil sa *t-Eagrán*. Ar lá griannmhar annamh i mí Eanáir chuaigh mise agus mo chomhpháirtíochta i gcoiriúlacht go dtí sraid Grafton chun faisean Bhaile Átha Cliath a thaispeáint daíobh.



▲ Anseo tá Seán Byrne agus Seán Buckley. Is é All Saints an lipéad cadaach is fearr leo. Is é Pete Doherty an icon stíl ata ag Seán Byrne. Maidir le Seán Buckley, ní beidh sé in ann a bheith beo gan an cóta leathair atá air.



▲ Seo í Áine as an blog, thisisaine.com. Tá a briste an-faiseanta agus buailte. Tá Áine i ngrá le smídeadh agus chomh maith le cólaiste tá sí ag deaneamh cursaí cosmaidí i The International Make-up Academy i mBaile Átha Cliath. Is aoihbhinn léi Topshop, River Island agus Warehouse ach le déanaí tá sí ag ceanach a lán rudaí as siopaí dara lámha.



▲ Taz Kelleher as DIT ata sa phictúir seo. Tá stíl iontach faiseanta uirthi. Is iad Urban Outfitters an siopa is fearr léi ach freisin is maith léi a bheith ag siopadóireacht sna siopaí dara lámha. Is i Rachel Zoean an icon stíl ata aici. Ní bheidh Tara ábalta a bheith beo gan a cótafionnadh.



▲ Is grúpa cailíní an-deas ar fad iad Jessica, Fiona, Sarah, Ciara agus Nessa. Dúirt siad nach mbeidh siad ábalta a bheith beo gan scairfeanna mór agus bristí denim. Is breá leo na buataisí le sáil ard freisin. Is iad Topshop agus Zara na siopa is fearr leo go léir.



▲ Is é Topshop and siopa is fearr leis an cailín seo. Is léir go bhfuil sí an-faiseanta ar fad leis an Ray Bans agus saicéad mór atá uirthi. Tá sí ag caitheamh eadaí simplí agus faiseanta.

Mar fhocail scór

Gradaim Ghlór Na nGael Fógartha

Fógraíodh gearrliosta na buaiteoirí don chomórtas tríú lebhéil ar Raidió na Gaeltachta maidin Déardaoin seo chaite, 27 Feabhra.

Gheobhaigh na Cumainn i Marino, Má Nuaid TCD, UCD agus Ollscoil Uladh Mhig Aoidh a ngradam ag an searmanas I gCaisleán Cluan Tairbh ar an 29 Marta.

Ní raibh an Cumann Gaelach DIT ainmnithe le haghaidh duais i mbliana cé go bhronnadh An Cumann Nua-Iontráilte Is Fearr orthu anuraidh.

Tá roinnt amhras faoin próiseis i mbliana toisc go naimníodh 5 Chumainn don 7 nduais atá ar fáil, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil dhá gradam faighte ag dhá choláiste. Ní raibh ionadaí ar bith ó shaol na mac léinn páirteach sa phróiseis moltóireacht ach oiread, mar a bhí le blianta anuas.

Tá €2,000, €1,500 agus €1,000 ar fáil mar dhuaiseanna agus is mór an chabhar a bhíonn iontu faoi choinne na Cumainn beaga ar nós DIT chun gníomh teanga a eagrú sa bhliain.

Láithreach á lorg don Ghaeilge san Aontas

Tá mic léinn na Gaeilge agus dóibh siúd a thugann tacaíocht do chun chinn agus spreagadh na teanga sa choláiste ag iarraidh go mbeidh ionadaíocht ag an teanga i saol na mac léinn feasta.

Tá Cumann Gaelach agus Oifig na Gaeilge na hInstitiúide ag éiliú i mbliana go gcuirfear i bhfeidhm moltaí an Choimisinéara Teanga agus coiníolacha Scéim na dTeangacha Oifigiúla ITBÁC maidir le soláthar na seirbhísí Gaeilge do mhic léinn.

Is iad na príomh aidhmeanna atá ann ná go mbéadh imeacht Gaeilge eagraithe ag Aontas na Mac Léinn, go gcuirfeadh polasaí teanga i bhfeidhm, go mbeidh seirbhísí dhátheangacha ar fáil chomh fada agus gur féidir agus go mbeidh duine faoi leith ceapaithe chun leanúnachas a chinntiú agus an polasaí a chur i bhfeidhm.

De réir an Scéim, atá feidhm aici ó 2012 – 2015, ba cheart go raibh beartas mic léinn I leith na teanga i bhfeidhm san Aontas roimh Bealtaine 2013, 10 mí ó shin.

Seirbhísí Stáite Diúltaithe Do Ghael Eile

Tuairiscíodh le déanaí cás ina dhiúltaíodh do dhuine an seirbhís cúirte a úsáid as Gaeilge.

Cailleadh vóta 4 – 1 chun giúire a sholáthar i nGaeilge amháin chun cinneadh a dhéanamh san Ard-Chúirte ar chás fear Gaeltachta as Leitir Mór.

Chaithe An Breitheamh Adrian Hardiman vóta i gcoinne iarratas an fhear, ag rá nach raibh dlí sa Stáit chun a chinntiú go bhfuil giúire dhátheangach ar fáil de réir cásanna áirithe.

Bí Ar An Eolas

Robbie Ó Cearrbháil

Bhí ceolchoirm ar siúl an tseachtain seo chaite in amharclann Ráth Maonais ar an gCéadaoin 26 Feabhra. Bhí ceol tradisiúnta, seinm ar an bpiano, canadh, agus bia tar éis i measc buacphointí an imeacht íontach ceolmhaire seo.

D'eagraigh an Cumann Rasáí na

gCon an tseachtain sin freisin, ar an Deardaoin Feabhra 27, le praghas €6 isteach chuig staid cú Shelbourne, buidéal beoir agus soar chead isteach chuig D2 tar éis.

Beidh an Cumann an gnóthach i gcomhair Seachtain na Gaeilge DIT 2014. Beidh sé ag tarlú ó 10ú – 13ú Márta in ITBÁC idir Sráid Áinséir, Caoimhín, Cathal Brughá agus Bolton.

Is é príomh imeacht na seachtaine ná an Céilí Mór le ceol beo agus lascaine deochanna, a bheith thíos i Lafayettes agus i ndiaidh i gClub Chonradh na Gaeilge. Níl ach méid áirithe ticéid so beidh ort a bheith i dteagmháil linn gasta!

Is iomaí imeacht íontacha a bheidh ar siúl le linn an tseachtain: ina measc beidh Fugitive Gaelach, Comórtas Ithe Prátaí, Scórail Sciobtha, Poker as Gaeilge, Tráth na gGeist, Oíche Scannáin agus go leor eile.

Beidh seans agat do chuid tae nó caife a fháil saor in aisce má dhéanann tú d'ord as Gaeilge le linn na seachtaine!

Idir deireadh mí Márta agus Aibreáin beidh cúpla rud eile ag tarlú. Coimeád súil ar an Turas Rúnda Gaeltachta agus Seachtain Cuimsitheáin na gCumainn ITBÁC.

Ná déanaigí dearmad faoin ciorcal comhrá atá ar siúl gach am lón Dé Mairt i gCúinne na Gaeilge Sr Aungier le haghaidh píosa lón, caint agus craic.

Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Chumann Gaelach ar 0831287044, cumanngaelach@socs.dit.ie, nó ar Facebook agus Twitter!

Mar sin a chairde, níl le rá ach... BÍGÍ LINN!

OPINION

 Opinion Editor: Paul Doyle opinion@edition.ie

EDITORIAL

Red tape, Red lines – will it end in red faces?

 AL MCCONNELL
EDITOR


Grangegorman won't look like a building site when the first students arrive in September, we're told – the ugly bits, the works in progress, will be boarded up and kept well out of sight.

So what will be going on behind those barriers? What structures will be emerging?

At the moment, it's unclear. In fact, a group of students are meeting with DIT senior management today to find out what facilities and spaces they will be met with when they move to the new site in September – never mind what's going on behind the boards.

Discussions on a number of issues at DIT have stalled, or never got off the ground.

It's partly down to red tape, in the form of inflexible budget divisions – even when crucial services are at breaking point. We saw that with regard to DIT's libraries last semester, and with Counselling services in this issue.

It's partly down to legislative interpretation, in terms of public procurement procedures, and questions around whether the Students' Union should have organised a levy referendum before now (including the possibility of a broken DITSU presidential mandate, an issue originally stemming from the poor wording of an important Student Council motion in April of last year).

At the centre of the stalled student levy debate is the SU shop debacle – a 'red line issue' for DITSU, and one that is now having a knock-on effect on the Grangegorman project as a whole.

Lost in all of this are the students. Those of you who have made it past the phrases 'inflexible budget divisions', 'public procurement procedures' and 'legislative interpretation' in this column (which won't be many, and I don't blame them) will be wondering what it will all mean in real terms – as am I.

1,200 students will be at Grangegorman in September, and 10,000 by 2017. I wouldn't want to be the one who must explain to them why they're on a brand new site with no SU shop, inadequate or no facilities, and student support services that have been crippled by budget restrictions (or haven't made it to the site at all).

Try telling students and staff it was down to red tape around funding, or a red line issue over the shops. Come September, there could be a line-up of red faces to match.

But sure, at least those ugly bits will be boarded up.

An IOT where the technology doesn't work

There is a painful irony to sitting in front of a computer that doesn't work in an institution with 'technology' in its name, says **Ben Finnegan**

As a student of DIT, I have daily struggles: daily struggles like any other student – getting out of bed, fishing for change for the bus in a puddle of copper coins, and generally trying to survive.

But as a media student there are added problems, maybe this is the case for every other course but I am in journalism so that is my experience. My problem is, I study at the Dublin Institute of Technology, but none of the technology works.

Come on guys, we don't ask for much. All we ask for is to be able to go through our education without tedious problems like computers not working, or a lift being broken. But a pet peeve of mine is the radio studio, and the general recording software.

Pro Tools.

You have one job Pro Tools, one job – WORK!

Why is it that anytime I go into the radio studio there is something not working, and I have to go and call Andy the technician to fix it? Why can't there be a general system where you just press record, instead of going through the trials and tribulations of making sure you have the right output and input settings.

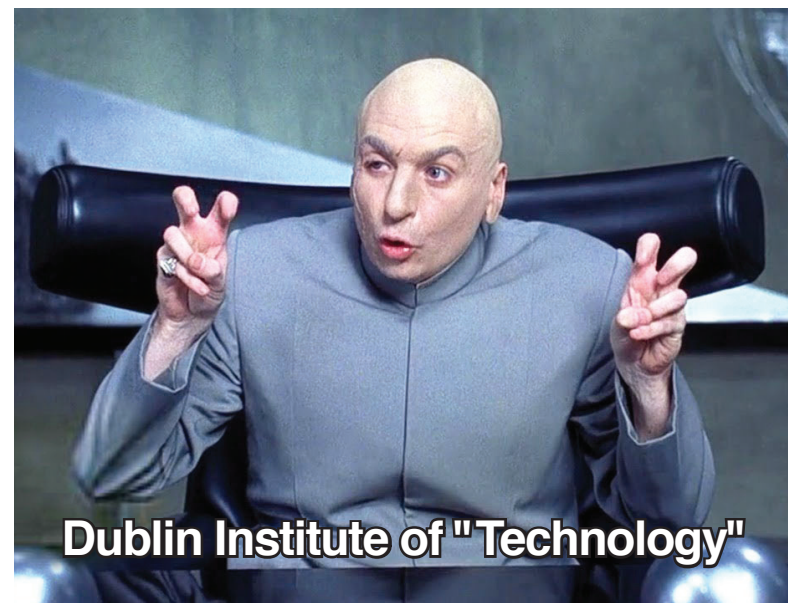
The problem is Pro Tools. It is a problem because, as I said above it doesn't work. I work in a radio station, a real one – and they don't use Pro Tools. They use software, which is very user friendly, and works called CoolEdit. You walk into the studio, open CoolEdit, press record; turn on the microphone and away you go.

What are you trying to teach me

DIT? Are you trying to teach me that life is mundane and redundant, like most of the things we have to use and be taught?

Why do you want to make my life so difficult that I don't want to attend, and that you make me very disillusioned about life? Is that your goal? I was under the impression that I would be learning skills that would help me in the future, but Pro Tools is ridiculous. It's a joke.

Another thing is shorthand. Why? Why do I have to learn something that isn't used anymore? Anyone I have talked to in the media have expressed their surprise that I'm being



made learn shorthand, and especially the fact that without it, my education would be halted.

When questioned on shorthand, the DIT answer is that 'You need it if you want to report on courts'. Who wants to report on courts? Nobody! Anyway, courts will probably be televised in the near future, but I'm still being made learn this completely redundant 'skill'.

And why is it that I am being made learn a form of shorthand that had died out when my mother learned it as part of a commerce course 30 years ago? From what I have heard is that Pitman shorthand hasn't been learned by anyone for a long time. Even though there is a form of shorthand called Teeline, which is the most modern (1968), I am being taught a form that originated in 1837.

Another thing that I wish to be explained to me is that in an Institute of TECHNOLOGY, why am I made learn a primitive and frankly 'cave-manish' thing such as shorthand. The world has evolved. Maybe you should too!

It's like being made learn maths in school. Everyone hated it and questioned why we were doing it, but deep down you should have known it was to help with your logic and reasoning, and help open your mind to challenges. It was more of a preparation for life.

But shorthand doesn't do anything like that; it does not have an underlying logical reason to why it is being taught.

I keep my form of shorthand in my pocket. It is so handy, at the press of a button it does what shorthand does, and to be honest it does it way better: an iPhone. But the people in DIT will try and tell you that technology will fail (which it does in DIT), but thanks to a certain Mr. Steven Paul Jobs, I have never experienced any problem.

So, DIT get your act together if I'm expected to further my education, and things that will actually aid me in my life and career, so that includes getting technology that works, and abolishing the shambolic excuse for technology – shorthand.

“We don't ask for much. All we ask for is to be able to go through our education without tedious problems like computers not working, or a lift being broken”

Letter from a successful DIT graduate

Sarah Comiskey writes to students on the BA in Early Childhood

I finished the degree believing that I was going to be able to change the face of early childhood education in Ireland, and walk into a dream job in Barnardos or a career in policy development – as did many fellow students. We were told throughout the course to strive for best practice in early childhood education, which meant that we left DIT with really high standards of what we believed to be happening out there in the early childhood education industry, also known as childcare.

The reality of graduating looked a little different. I quickly learnt that

in Ireland early childhood education meant childcare, and I struggled with that. Anybody who didn't have a history of employment in long day care settings (crèches) needed it, so that was the first step.

As much as I didn't want to work in a crèche, I had to. The industry (in Ireland and evidently Western Australia) requires experience and the qualifications. The challenge is that we were trained to implement high-quality early childhood education, and many aspects of childcare settings made it really difficult to do that – ratios, children with additional needs, huge staff turnover, low pay etc.

The advice I would give is to never forget your knowledge and training, and don't give up trying to do your best even if you think some days 'What is the point?'.

I would recommend working in

crèches during the summer holidays (as much as you don't want to) and always have your dream job in mind. Find where your passions lie and work towards that.

Mine was in working with children and families to bring about positive change. Five years post-grad, here I am in Western Australia doing just that.

The theories we covered during the BA that are most relevant to me now in non-statutory child protection are all aspects of child development, attachment theory, systems theory,

Never forget your knowledge and your training, and don't give up trying to do your best, even if you think some days 'What is the point?'

strengths-based practice, child protection, social theory, sociology of childhood (understanding childhood in different cultural contexts), diversity and equality in the early years and, believe it or not, research methods.

When I write case notes in work people laugh because they are five pages long, but I make sure that my observations of the families I work with are factual, objective, and are documented clearly – which is what I learnt from the research project in second year.

Overall, I feel that the BA has given me an excellent foundation upon which to build my skills and knowledge. Although I am not changing the face of early childhood in Ireland, I feel like I'm making a small difference in the lives of the children I work with here in WA.

Cathal Brugha St canteen should be returned to students

North Side campus is the home of Culinary Arts and terrible food

CIARÁN
HYLAND



Cathal Brugha Street's canteen service is ironically substandard. In a college of students training to immerse themselves in Ireland's lucrative hospitality industry, we unfortunately encounter a canteen serving poor quality food.

A palpable air of disappointment regarding the canteen pervades the school, one which many students are beginning to tire of. The canteen's unpopularity has been compounded by the development of a discerning foodie culture wherein young people are increasingly selective about what they eat.

This phenomenon has firmly challenged the stereotype that students consider food to be a purely functional commodity. I believe that DIT canteen services should recognise and respect such a notion

that students will not simply eat what they are given.

Considering this, I strongly advocate returning Cathal Brugha's canteen provision responsibilities to the culinary students themselves, as was the case as recently as 2009.

I would argue that such a u-turn would certainly elevate food quality levels to current expectations and beyond.

Currently, Cathal Brugha's canteen is outsourced by the college to the services company Aramark, who specialise in offering catering options to businesses, hospitals and schools etc. When the canteen was run by culinary students themselves it was renowned for offering hearty and sizeable meals at very competitive prices.

An examination of a 2007 boards. Aie conversation amongst Irish students reveals that students flocked from campuses around the city to avail of the service. This is a starkly disappointing contrast to the canteen's current unpopularity.

DIT Cathal Brugha Street: As in other campuses, its canteen is run by Aramark



This unpopularity reveals itself during peak times, when the seating area mainly consists of people eating food either brought from home or purchased in a nearby shop.

A quick examination of Aramark's website provided me with their idealistic ethos regarding their food service division:

"At Aramark, food is a way of life, not just a philosophy."

A promising start. I would guess that the majority of the culinary-minded students in Cathal Brugha Street agree with such a sentiment. However the statement then proceeds to claim:

"Our team of (culinary, marketing, design and operations) experts create dining solutions that are on trend, nutritious, healthy, high quality and cost efficient. Our focus on locally sourced produce and seasonality ensures freshness throughout the year".

Aramark's ethos must have been swept under the rug at Cathal Brugha Street, for the service offered here sadly lacks many of the desirable qualities mentioned. Foods served are often processed, frozen or deep fried, and contribute little towards nutrition, seasonality and affordability.

As a foodie, I find it unsettling to see a sizeable portion of our canteen's menu defrosting under kitchen ovens at the start of the college day, as is often the case. Typical hot dishes usually include lasagna, burgers, chips, chicken goujons, battered fish and stir fries. The canteen also sports a salad bar and sandwich counter, both of which are quite highly priced.

I sincerely hope that the outsourcing of the canteen was not a case of administrative laziness, with college officials looking to shift workload and responsibilities from their to-do list. I recognise there is an element

“

I strongly advocate returning Cathal Brugha's canteen provision responsibilities to the culinary students themselves

”

of financial concern with such an undertaking.

However, the associated workload of such a project should not scare us from away from fostering the canteen's primary purpose: to serve and benefit students.

It would be very easy for us to continue with things as they are. However, I firmly believe that the canteen has great potential to provide food of a noticeable quality on a city-wide scale. The kitchen holds great equipment and is spacious enough to produce trendy, flavourful and healthy food that students are attracted to.

At the very least I would appeal that Aramark review the quality of their service at Cathal Brugha Street. I would also urge DIT to re-examine current leasing arrangements at the school and perhaps reconsider returning canteen responsibilities to the students in some shape or form. This is definitely a model which would enrich the quality of culinary education while simultaneously satisfying Cathal Brugha Street's appreciation for good food.

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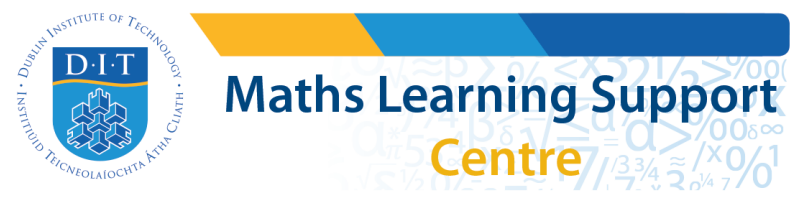
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Dr. Cormac Breen
Mathematics Learning Support Centre Coordinator

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off to the scéal.

DITSU ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT: ONE CANDIDATE



Name: Fiachra Duffy
Age: 24
From: Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
Studied: Human Nutrition and Dietetics (Four-year course), Kevin Street
Graduated: October 2013

“A lot of people come through clubs and societies, and are used to leading certain areas, but it’s a big step up to lead such a large executive, and to be the ultimate, sole voice of 18,500 students.”

INTERVIEWED BY
Al McConnell

What made you want to go for this position?

I’ve had my eye on this position since elections in first year. I was part of Ciarán Nevin’s campaign and what he did with the role inspired me.

I’ve been delighted with the Welfare role having come from a nutrition background. I’ve taken it on and given my all to it, which I will continue to do until the end of June.

Then, if the students of DIT see fit, I’ll take on the role of President, do my best with it and leave strong foundations for others to come along and improve even more.

It’s the third year in a row that the presidency is uncontested – why do you think no one else has wanted to go for it?

Honestly, I’m not sure. It could be that the Vice-President roles are more public, and students can see more clearly what those roles entail, whilst the role of president is team leadership and dealing with a lot of internal things in DIT. Knowledge of the role could be one thing.

Also it could be the size of the role – a lot of people come through clubs and societies, and are used to leading certain areas, but it’s a big step up to lead such a large executive, and to be the ultimate, sole voice of 18,500 students.

I love communication and social media, so I’d make a big effort to let students know what I was up to, which might improve awareness of the role.

What will you do to convince people to vote for you, as the only candidate?

From my campaign last year I found some things worked well and some didn’t, so I can build on that. Plus, my dedication to the job – I have no problem putting in the unearthly hours needed, the same way I did for SHAG Week and Welfare November. Getting to every campus, making sure every student knows who I am, knows I am running, and why.

Previous roles in the Student Union and Student Council: Student Councillor for two-and-a-half years, Class Rep for five years, member of Welfare and Education sub-group, member of Grangegorman sub-group. Current VP Welfare.

Societies involvement: Previously – President of Nutrition Soc, President and PRO for Drama Soc, Vice-President Societies Forum
 “I’ve dabble-dabbled across all life in DIT,” said Duffy.

Sports involvement: Duffy boxed in secondary school and has attempted to get back into it, but feels the current job has got in the way. “It’s become more important for me to promote other people getting fit, than keeping fit myself,” he said.

It will be a long two weeks, but I am willing to talk to any and every student and do whatever it takes until March 8th when I can sleep again. Get out there, get my message across, and hopefully students have seen over the last eight months that I am the best candidate for the job.

I have to get my message home to them, and to ask for their support over the four days of voting.

How do you think you would cope with being president at a time of upheaval for DIT?

It won’t be that big a difficulty for DITSU – the Union reacts very quickly and changes very quickly. Because we’re all only here for a year and we have to work hard in a short space of time if we want to get our manifesto promises achieved. I think we react a lot more readily than DIT – they’re on a slower shift with a focus on 2019, or 2020. That can be frustrating at times, but the Union has to get on, adapt, and work fast.

Our students and our Student Council – everyone who helps and directs us – they’re great at thinking outside the box, so any problems we do face, I am confident we’ll find solutions very quickly.

What is your biggest advantage in this race, and your biggest disadvantage?

They’re one and the same – it’s the hours that the Welfare job takes up. At the minute we’re in the middle of RAG and SHAG fortnight, just after

Rainbow Week. It means I’m getting out there and students are seeing me and seeing the job I’ve been doing. But, unlike the other candidates I haven’t looked at posters and social media campaigns yet because I want to focus entirely on my job. I hope students will see that as good work before I ask them to vote me in as president.

What do you want to do after college?

I haven’t really thought it through yet, but through my experiences this year, and as a qualified dietician, I might like to go into the area of health promotion. You might see Bord Bia or Safe Food running an ‘Are you getting enough of the D?’ campaign in years to come.

What has been your proudest moment in life?

I’m bad at these on-the-spot questions, but I would probably go back to this time last year when the ballot papers were being stacked [for Welfare officer]. It was impossible to tell who had one, and myself and my opponent sat side-by-side as it was announced. It was something I had poured my heart and soul into for weeks, and to have the students back me was just an overwhelming feeling.

In three words, what makes you the best candidate for this role?

Motivation. Initiative. Dedication.

VP EDUCATION: THREE CANDIDATES



Name: Ella Hopkins
Age: 20
From: Rathfarnham, South Dublin
Studying: Culinary Arts, Higher Certificate, Cathal Brugha Street
Year of Study: Second Year (Final Year)

“We’re all here to get an education, that’s our common reason for being at DIT, and I think everyone deserves the same education and the same rights to the education”

INTERVIEWED BY
Al McConnell

What made you want to go for this position?

What made me want to go for VP Education was that I am a student with disabilities. Since I got to DIT and realised there is a lack of knowledge around disabilities, and that a lot of people consider it a minor issue, this has been a real passion of mine.

Last year I had it put into Council that DITSU should run a disability campaign, and the current officer will be running that campaign this semester. I am also involved with the disability service and assist in giving them feedback and support.

Is there something lacking at the moment in the Union and DIT around disabilities?

The Union itself is not really aware of the inequalities that are going on underneath it. Another reason I am running is that mature students’ voices aren’t really heard as much as the average student from CAO. We’re all here to get an education, that’s our common reason for being at DIT, and I think everyone deserves the same education and the same rights to the education.

What would you do on your very first day in this position?

If I were elected, I would probably try to contact all the heads of Schools. There’s a big issue of miscommunication between them, and I think that would be an important issue to conquer first off, while the Schools are still deciding their schedules.

What can be done to improve awareness of disability issues?

At the beginning I constantly gave feedback to the Disability Service, and they decided to change how they interact with students. My involvement has developed from there. At the start of last semester, I was one of the vol-

Previous roles in the Student Union and Student Council: Student Councillor, and School Rep for Culinary Arts & Food Technology

Societies involvement:

Previously involved in Gig Soc, but left “to focus more on Student Union and Council-related issues”.

“Realising that there were so many things wrong with DIT and with the Unions across the country drew me towards it,” said Hopkins.

unteers for Disability Service inductions for first years, so I spoke to 100 first years about my disabilities and how I’ve coped within DIT. Now I’m working with an Asperger’s group within the Disability Service; it has all kept evolving since the start.

This is the most contested position, why do you think that is?

I think now that Education is a single role it’s becoming more and more interesting and a lot more students are seeing it as a thing that needs to be conquered and needs to have changes, because it is the main reason we’re all here at DIT – to learn.

What do you want to do after college?

For now, I’d love to have a position in the Union next year, but after college I’d like to continue on my current career path, so I’m looking into going abroad to study to become a chocolatier – there are very few people in the world at the moment working in that area.

What is your biggest advantage in this race, and your biggest disadvantage?

My biggest advantage, I believe, is that because the other two candidates have been in big positions within DITSU

before, I don’t think they consider me much of a threat. But I’ve done a lot of work behind the scenes that they haven’t seen and they haven’t known about, so I think being the underdog is my biggest strength against them.

In terms of weaknesses, the current officer will have a better knowledge of the overall role. But, having looked into the role a lot, I consider myself to be quite balanced at the moment. While I consider running against a current officer to be my main disadvantage, I don’t consider it to be too much of a weakness.

What has been your proudest moment in life?

A lot of the students aren’t really going to understand why this is, and I don’t want it to come across as soppy or anything, but my biggest achievement so far is actually getting into college, because so many people told me I wouldn’t. I have two disabilities and a lot of my teachers and peers told me I wouldn’t make it to college, but I proved them wrong – I am in my last semester now, and am soon to graduate. That’s really my biggest achievement, personally.

In three words, what makes you the best candidate for this role?

I work hard.



Name: Graham Higginbotham
Age: 26
From: Lucan, Dublin
Studying: Civil Engineering, Bolton Street
Year of Study: Final Year

“I think the people who are involved in the campaign this year could be those who have seen some of the pitfalls people can face, and want to do something about it. Personally, that was my drive to go for the position

INTERVIEWED BY
Al McConnell

What made you want to go for this position?

Being in DIT for so long, you see what works and what doesn't [Higginbotham is in his seventh year in DIT, across two courses] Unfortunately, I haven't had the smoothest path through the college; I would be one of the average students who had to struggle his way through. I've seen that there is an inherent need for someone strong in the position of VP Education. I've had friends who have been in this position, and I've spoken to them at length about the role. When it came to running for this position, I already knew what it was all about, the way the systems work, and the need for further changes.

What would be the first thing to address on your very first day in this position?

Awareness. In terms of the overall roles that exist in DIT-SU, the VP for Education is a role that isn't seen as much as others. It's a very important role, and they do important work throughout the year, but a lot of it is silent, taking place in boardrooms. As I did when acting as College Officer, I would make myself extremely visible – it's important for students to know the person in these positions, to be able to relate to them, and to know that there is someone working hard for them.

This is the most contested position, why do you think that is?

It's the inherent need for change – people see it. There are a lot of challenges that people can face on their path through education, and a lot of pitfalls for people in third level. Individuals who have seen these problems along the way will tend to want to do something about it, and I think the people who are involved in

Previous roles in the Student Union and Student Council:
Class Rep, College Officer (then-Convenor) for two years

Societies involvement:
DIT Sports Scholar (motorsports scholarship)
DIT Male Sports Scholar of the Year 2010
Chairperson DIT Karting Club for three years, Secretary one year
Boxing club member and Engineering Society member
“When it comes to motorsport, it's so competitive that it definitely fires up something inside you,” said Higginbotham.

the campaign this year could be those who have seen some of the pitfalls people can face, and want to do something about it. Personally, that was my drive to go for the position.

What is your biggest advantage in this race, and your biggest disadvantage?

My advantage will be knowledge of DIT – I have more experience both as a student and an elected officer than both of the other candidates, including the current VP. I know the systems, I know how they work, and I've seen how things can change going forward. My experience of being a student would also keep me grounded in terms of focusing on how changes actually affect students, rather than just jargon, and the number of years I've been in the college gives me that bit more oversight than the other candidates. My disadvantage would be that I don't take kindly to being ignored, and it certainly gets a reaction out of me. That can be an advantage too; I wouldn't be deterred by DIT ignoring me in the role.

What do you want to do after college?

Engineering is something I would definitely like to pursue, but there are still things in sports I want to achieve. I've been working hard to be the best athlete I can be, and ultimately I will have some sporting aspirations after DIT. And travelling – you have to get out and see the world, to open your mind.

What was your most proud moment in life?

The year we took over the Karting Club, I had just had to take a year out of college (exams hadn't gone according to plan, and that was pretty devastating, it takes a lot of confidence out of you). That year I decided to go full-on at both sport and college; I ended up having the best year of my life in racing. I did really well academically, and I got an All-Star sports scholar award as well as Chief Executive of the Year for Clubs and Societies. It just made me believe that although things get tough, there's always a way to come back from it.

In three words, what makes you the best candidate for this role?
Determined.
Aware.
Capable.



Name: Rebecca Dempsey
Age: 22
From: Athlone, Co Westmeath
Studying: BSc Mathematical Science
Year of Study: Current Sabbatical Officer, to graduate this year

“The Education role is more behind the scenes than the other sabbatical positions. You attend a lot of meetings, you have to be prepared, you have to have everything read. Maybe the other candidates are aware of that as well, but I have done it

INTERVIEWED BY
Al McConnell

What made you want to go for this position?

Since being introduced to Student Council in my third year, I kind of got the hook for it. I realised there was this side to college that was different from the academic side, which involved meeting people from the different campuses – that brought me in first. I really enjoy representing students; I know that's kind of cliché, but I really do enjoy it. I found while doing work placement in a secondary school that I really enjoyed the interaction, helping people, and doing everything I can to help get someone through the process.

What's the main reason you want to go for the role for a second year?

Also, this was the first year of the Education role, so there's a lot that needs to be finalised. If I were elected, I would have the entire summer to plan, which I think could be used really effectively, and could roll out things a lot quicker. It does take time to find your feet, especially in July when people are still crossing over.

What would you do on your very first day in this position?

So, that would be the 1st of July – the first thing would be to make a list of what needs to be done, prioritise in terms of what can be done, and then aim high to see what we can do. That wouldn't be down to just me, so we'd have to sit down with the team, and communicate with the sabbatical officers and college officers (even though they won't be in term yet). You would also look back to what the officer is mandated to do – you have to go with what Council has decided. I always say I don't have an opinion while I'm in this role.

Previous roles in the Student Union and Student Council:
Class Rep, School Rep for the School of Mathematics, Student Councillor, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Student Council at second-level.
Current DITSU VP for Education.

Societies involvement:
Dance Society during first and second year. “I would've been interested in dance, and went to a dance school when I was younger, starting with Irish and then Modern Dance,” said Dempsey.

What is the biggest issue in third-level education at the moment?

Awareness of students' rights – I don't think students are aware of what's there, or what policies are in place within DIT itself. It's about making students aware of what they're entitled to and what they have to do as well.

This is the most contested position, why do you think that is?

I think it's a positive thing that people are interested in running for it, and people want to go out and to aim high. Competition is always good – for the students, for the people running, and for the college itself. I'd also like to think that maybe I did a good job this year, and as it is the second year of the split maybe people have seen what can be done in this role, or have their own ideas for it. It's a positive thing, not one bit negative.

What do you want to do after college?

I'm planning to go into second-level teaching for Maths, that's the goal.

What is your biggest advantage in this race, and your biggest disadvantage?

My advantage would maybe be that I understand how it works within DIT now, at the different levels. The Education role is more behind the

scenes than the other sabbatical positions. You attend a lot of meetings, you have to be prepared, you have to have everything read. Maybe the other candidates are aware of that as well, but I have done it. My disadvantage could nearly be the same thing, that I've been in it for a year and students might feel like they want somebody else, but I believe continuity is needed to keep things flowing. Especially when things in DIT move so slowly – they aren't as open to change as our generation, and maybe they should be, maybe that needs to be pushed.

What has been your proudest moment in life?

Probably last year at the inauguration ceremony in May, when outgoing and incoming officers give speeches. My Mam and Dad were there and they got to see what I was interested in, and I got to thank them publicly. Over the last few years we've had things a little bit tough as a family, so it was nice for the day to be able to celebrate together. And I was able to thank my Dad for being the 'Daddy fund' for a few years, which is no longer in place – I'm able to stand by myself now.

In three words, what makes you the best candidate for this role?
Passionate.
Experienced.
Ruthless.

DITSU ELECTIONS

VP WELFARE: TWO CANDIDATES



Name: Femi Bankole

“

Based solely on experience, I would think I'm better [than the other candidate]. I've done quite a lot with the SU and it's been an eye-opening experience

INTERVIEWED BY
Eoghan Regan

What previous experience do you have, and how will that make you eligible for the role of Welfare Officer?

I was a Class Rep in first year and then again in second year, and right now I'm the College Officer for Kevin Street. It has been the best seven months of life working as the College Officer, then I got bitten by the election bug... and here I am now.

I've got of knowledge of what it's like on the inside of the Student Union – I worked closely with the Welfare VP of last year.

Do you have experience dealing with students who have been bullied?

People come to me, students have come to me, and said 'Hey, Femi gives good advice'. I find myself in that situation a lot, and I like that. With issues such as bullying you always have to be careful to take a step back – everyone deals with things differently, sometimes you can help them sort it out sometimes it can call for tough love, it depends on the person. One of my main skills is reading into people, and I think it helps.

What are your thoughts on the current state of student accommodation in DIT?

Unfortunately, I was one of those students struggling with accommodation. Sadly, a lot of landlords have seen the problem students are having with accommodation, and the price has skyrocketed. They have been taking advantage.

I think the idea of block-booking is the way to do it, it's a great area to ex-

plore, not just in Griffith but in different buildings. Also an information guide. On the open days, students should be told they need to get in early. Make sure students know their rights, the appliances that they should have in their house and so on. Information is key.

Why are you a better candidate than Dympna O'Brien?

Based solely on experience, I would think I'm better. I've done quite a lot with the SU and it's been an eye-opening experience. Fiachra's work this year had been great, and we need that continuity. I think I've been at the forefront. Being the person that I am, I'm easy to approach, I think I would be a friendly face. Having that insight into the Union also gives me a real advantage.

What annoys you most about DIT?

The fact that the Grangegorman project has taken over everything. We students who are here now have taken a back seat to it. I'll be finished my degree before I ever get to see Grangegorman, so why should I have to deal with sub-standard facilities?

It's definitely about drawing DIT's eye to it. DIT occasionally turns a blind eye to problems such as the lift in Cathal Brugha Street. It's a basic problem but if they threw a bit of money at it they could sort it. Also the problem in Kevin street with the Wifi, it's a basic need in this day and age to have Wifi in colleges.

Why would you be qualified to help student with their finances?

I have no formal experience in regard to student finances, but I have had problems with it myself. I wouldn't come from the 'best background' let's say, and I can understand the situation some students find themselves in. For me, budgeting helped quite a bit – you have to plan ahead, be wise with your money.

What is the biggest issue facing student welfare at this time?

Student finances, definitely. For the first year, the Student Assistance Fund ran out before Christmas. At a Student Council meeting before Christmas which I was at, some students had broken down crying, it was that bad.

I'm lucky I have a part-time job with the Union, otherwise I would be commuting from Dundalk. I think the Government said they would give the Fund a top up, but that had already run out.

What alternative do you suggest?

We could look at different areas from DIT. Library fines could be an idea, diverting the money from the fines into helping students – different ways to help students who clearly need it. €250 has already been added to the student contribution and there's also talks about a student levy. But it ain't getting any easier for students either.



Name: Dympna O'Brien

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I've way more experience and interest than Femi, definitely more interest in the role

INTERVIEWED BY
Eoghan Regan

What previous experience do you have, and how will that make you eligible for the role of Welfare Officer?

Well, I'm currently on the Ents crew, the Welfare crew and I've taken part in Chats for Change accords all the sites. I've also been heavily involved with the RAG & SHAG Road Show.

Would skills you gained in those roles transfer over to the role of Welfare officer?

Yes I think so. I did stewarding and I was with Carnival, it made me more confident and you need to be able to talk to people.

How would you get students more involved in the student Union?

I'd like to promote it better, but there are only so many places for each college. Campaigning has gotten so many more people involved than previous years; it's the only way to do it, so that's good.

I also work with Jigsaw Meath mental health support (mental health to me is just like anything, like any other topic, I've no problem talking about it). I've also been involved in peer mentoring as a pilot program with Headstrong, going to different areas and schools talking about Mental Health. I would hope to focus hard on mental health in both semesters, not just in one.

Do you have any previous experience dealing with students who have been bullied?

No, and I personally never

had any problem. Maybe I do lack experience with regards to bullying, but you're a Welfare Officer, rather than a Councillor. You're meant to be a listening ear, but I can't council people, as such. There are loads of services in DIT that offer help, and I can look at it with a fresh perspective.

What are your thoughts on the current state of student accommodation in DIT?

I had a big problem with that myself, so I understand it. I would work closely with DIT, we need to block-book more apartments. Maybe talk to people who are privately renting and get a reference from their landlords.

How would you deal with a student who comes to you with a drug addiction?

I would give them as much advice as I can. Refer them to their local SSA who are specifically meant to help them, but it's not formally dealt with in my manifesto.

Why are you a better candidate than Femi Bonkole?

I've seen and experienced much of the student experience; I've a personal attachment to DIT. I have done the whole placement thing, I've needed that help from DIT.

Also, I'm a 4th year, and as everyone says, you've one more year of life experience. I've way more experience and interest than Femi, definitely more interest in the role. Anything Fiachra has put up, I've always tried to help to plug it. I just feel he hasn't been as active in the Welfare crew,

although I know he had other roles as college officer.

What annoys you most about DIT?

The lift issue in Cathal Brugha street. Glenn had sent in a letter, a few of us sent in letters – climbing four floors at 9am isn't a great thing. I saw people going up on crutches and it's totally unacceptable. There are people in the college with physical disabilities that can't go anywhere without a lift. It has been fixed since, though.

Why would you be qualified to help students with their finances?

I'm very aware of the problems, I've had to budget some months and so on, but I have a part-time job which makes it a little easier.

The Student Assistance Fund... I've seen people, friends of mine, who got word in November that it had been cut – they've had to move home. They lose out on the student experience, which is a very important social aspect; you need that if you're a student. People can't even stay late in the library, they have to get the last bus home.

What is the biggest issue facing student welfare at this time?

I'd say the Accommodation. And I know how it goes, it's so hard for first years, they only get their results in August. I've been through it myself. It's a big one. We need to work closely with DIT, again block-booking houses.

Voting in the DITSU elections is taking place this week across campuses

Today: 10am-8pm

- Aungier St
- Bolton St
- Cathal Brugha St
- Kevin St
- BIMM (until 5pm)

Wednesday: 10am-8pm

- Aungier St
- Bolton St
- Cathal Brugha St
- Kevin St
- Mountjoy Sq
- Rathmines (until 5pm)

Thursday: 10am-8pm

- Aungier St
- Bolton St
- Cathal Brugha St
- Kevin St
- Mountjoy Sq
- Rathmines (until 5pm)

Friday: 10am

- Vote Count
- Results

DITSU ELECTIONS

VP EVENTS:TWO CANDIDATES



Name: Konrad Olszewski
Age: 18
From: Bray, Co Wicklow
Studying: Human Resource Management
Year of Study: First

“My mindset has not been influenced by VPs who have gone before. I’m fresh blood, and I think I can organise events that have never happened in DIT before

INTERVIEWED BY
Eoghan McNeill

What do you think DIT students expect from the VP for Events?

They expect good events for reasonably good prices. I’m sure they want some good drink deals. They want someone who can run memorable events.

What makes you equipped to provide that?

Honestly, I’m a first year. I don’t have much experience, but I think that’s actually an advantage. My mindset has not been influenced by VPs who have gone before. I’m fresh blood, and I think I can organise events that have never happened in DIT before.

The VP for Events is paid a salary of €23,188. Are you worth it?

When I handed in my nomination form, I didn’t know it was a paid position; I actually thought it was a voluntary position – I was surprised that it is paid.

I actually don’t know if I’m worth it because I’ve never done the job before. It’s a lot of work though; you have to call people all the time, you have to organise stuff, you have to get DJs in, and you have to make sure on a daily basis that everything is running nice and smoothly. I think the position is worth the money.

Do you have any truly unique ideas for DIT events?

One of my ideas is the “Fresh Blood” event. This would be run every two/three weeks. This would be an event just for DIT students to meet their friends, where they wouldn’t have to worry if the event is going to be good, if the music’s going to be good, because I will make sure they will be good.

Do you have any plans to run LGBT-specific nights?

I don’t think the LGBT community should have separate events; I think they’re like everyone else, so they should party with everyone else.

What is a typical night out for you?

At the start, I’d meet some friends. We’d go to the pub, have a few chats, because you don’t really get the opportunity to do that in nightclubs – most of the time you just dance. Then, we would head to a nightclub, get a few drinks at the bar, party and have a good night out.

What are your three favourite clubs/pubs in Dublin?

I would say The Village. The music is great, and the people in there are really sound. I really like the management and the people working in the nightclub as well. The second one would be The Palace. They have good promotions, really good events and good music. The whole venue is quality.

I would also say Play nightclub. It’s not big, but most of the time you go in there, it’s not packed. So you can actually talk to people and make connections.

How much do you drink on a typical night out?

I don’t actually drink that much. I drink enough to have fun, but not so much I have to crawl back home!

Have you ever taken drugs?

No.

Have you ever broken the law?

Well I’m sure I probably have. Driving to college on a motorbike, I’ve probably broken a few.

What is the most interesting thing about you?

I’m interested in literally everything! If there is any new idea, I’m 100% up for it, I always love trying new stuff.

What is your opponent, Ciara’s, biggest weakness?

I don’t know actually, I haven’t heard any rumours about her, but from what I know, she’s said her campus is Bolton St., so she might not have good connections in other campuses. But I don’t think she has any weaknesses that I can point out.

[One of Konrad’s promotional posters asks ‘Do you like craic? Banter? Fun? Parties, or do you have a large penis?’ Another asks ‘Do you want to see my wand?’]

Why do two of your promotional posters use penis jokes?

There are many students in DIT that are male. Some of them might think “Oh yeah, that’s true, I better vote for Konrad”. It’s kind of a promotional trick. It’s just a joke.

Do you think it may put women off voting for you?

I think it’s just a joke, I don’t think it should disturb anyone.

Students will always know where to get six cans of lager and which nightclubs serve cheap Jager. It doesn’t make a difference who is elected Vice President for Events. Discuss.

I think it does make a difference because the VP for Events is responsible for things happening here. If you didn’t have an Officer, students would have to organise events themselves – it would be a hassle for them. This way, we can help, and make events cheaper.



Name: Ciara Murnane
Age: 21
From: Dublin
Studying: Architecture
Year of Study: Third

“I would love to bring more comedy nights, more live acts. I want to focus on doing stuff that isn’t just completely based on drink, while also having the fun nights that happen at the moment

INTERVIEWED BY
Eoghan McNeill

What do you think DIT students expect from the VP for Events?

They expect to have nights out with cheap drink and all that jazz, but I think they also expect their ENTs discount card. They want someone they don’t feel afraid to contact if they’re having a class party.

What makes you equipped to provide that?

I’m experienced. I’m currently the President of the Drama Society. I’ve a run a tonne of different events. I have been involved in club nights through my society work and my work with the ENTs crew. I know how to approach people. I know how to talk to people, how not to intimidate them. I know how to get them to think my way, get them to buy into the events.

The VP for Events is paid a salary of €23,188. Are you worth it?

I think I’m worth it. Purely because of the amount of experience I have and the work I’ve done without asking for a cent over the last three years. I’ve put so much time in over the years. I’ve never asked for anything, nor expected anything. Yes maybe it is a lot of money, but I think if I do what I say I’m going to do, and if I push myself, I’ll be worth way more than that.

Do you have any truly unique ideas for DIT events?

I have a few ideas for onsite events. I’m thinking of more interactive things with students: messing around in ball pits, a big punching bag they can mess around with.

Do you have any plans to run LGBT-specific nights?

I think some of the LGBT nights that already happen in town are fantastic. I think DIT

does have a very strong LGBT community but whether that would be able to maintain a full club night... Maybe just working with the LGBT society and a big night for them once a semester would be more feasible.

What is a typical night out for you?

Probably have a few a pre-drinks in someone’s house, lots of tunes, a few games. Lots of chats, then head off on the last bus into town, meet up with anyone else we’re meeting up with and head, usually, to a club. Always lots of dancing!

What are your three favourite clubs/pubs in Dublin?

There’s a special place in my heart for the Lost Society. I’ve had some amazing nights there. I also like the Workman’s, the Drama Society go there a lot. There’s a few on Harcourt St. I quite like. If you go out with a good group of people, it doesn’t matter where you go.

How much do you drink on a typical night out?

It depends. I’ve been the eejit who drank far too much on a night out, and I’ve been the person who was completely sober in Coppers chasing after everyone else, making sure they’re OK! It’s about finding a happy-medium.

Have you ever taken drugs?

No.

Have you ever broken the law?

I was caught drinking in public when I was on my J1 in New York this summer.

What is the most interesting thing about you?

I’m very creative, which

a lot of people don’t really know.

What is your opponent, Konrad’s, biggest weakness?

Him being a first year. I don’t think he has the experience I have.

[Ciara’s promo video is a pastiche of Macklemore’s Thrift Shop video. It features her walking up Grafton St. wearing clothes similar to those Macklemore wore in the original]

What does your promo video say about you and why should it make people vote for you?

Well it’s not the only promo video I’m going to be putting up. It shows that I’m confident. Who else is going to be able to drag a few of their friends out, and strut up Grafton St. looking absolutely ridiculous, in the lashings of rain!? The next one will detail more of what I’m about.

How popular are the Drama Society productions?

Last year, our musical sold out in two days – that was 307 tickets. This year we’ve upped it to 1,000. Come March 18th, we’ll know how well that goes!

Students will always know where to get six cans of lager and which nightclubs serve cheap Jager. It doesn’t make a difference who is elected Vice President for Events. Discuss.

I don’t think that’s anywhere near what the Events position is about. It’s important that all of the events are not focused on drinking. I would love to bring more comedy nights, more live acts. I want to focus on doing stuff that isn’t just completely based on drink, while also having the fun nights that happen at the moment.

ERASMUS DIARIES



Brussels, the Belgian capital city

Captain's Log: Entry One

Our woman in Brussels reports back

STEPHANIE COSTELLO



BRUSSELS, Belgium –

It's almost been three weeks since I arrived in the city of Brussels. I'm yet to take a photo of myself in the Grand Place, eat a waffle or walk the Tin Tin trail. I'm still not really sure where the important Brussels suburbs are and I've only visited the European Parliament from the outside, once, by mistake. I've circled the necessary 'must do' attractions in my Brussels and Bruges tourist guide but it's already been overshadowed by my 'must drink' checklist of Belgian beers. At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter too much. This is Erasmus after all.

I navigated my way off the aeroplane with a rehearsed sentence in pigeon French. Wearing two coats, underneath more layers of clothing than a Russian Matryoshka doll and

dragging a suitcase the size of a small whale that I later discovered contained around thirty knickers and one solitary pair of socks. Armed to the teeth with the necessary Leaving Cert train station vocabulary and excited to hear myself speak French, I asked for a ticket to Sainte Catherine.

"Oh you speak English?" the man at the ticket booth responded. It became apparent later that almost everyone speaks at least 3 different languages in Brussels. The man, in his early 50s, kept me at the booth for 20 minutes and we chatted about his ex-wife and what a bitch she was for taking his cats. He was leaving Brussels soon, I learned, to go on a holiday to Japan and I was anxious to depart the swelling queue enlarging behind me.

On exiting the station I had only an address and the name of the Latvian roommate who I would be sharing a bedsit with. She found me through an email and told me how her friend abandoned her with this room just days before she was due to arrive. Her mail sounded suspiciously like spam, one of those too good to be true situations and was written in red, yellow

and green. My instinct told me she must be a little strange but my non-chalant attitude towards moving to a foreign country for 5 months coupled with my crippling ability to procrastinate meant that I was desperate for a place to live.

For now, we share a room the size of most people's kitchens and sleep on sofa beds. We have a goldfish and our fridge is perpetually empty. She is continually surprised by the fact that she can drink faster than me, given my nationality but I am ecstatic to be tearing down such a flamboyant stereotype. The ceilings are high in

the apartment but that hardly makes up for the fact that we can physically see each other wherever we are in the house. A shocking disregard for each others personal space has at times been disorientating but ultimately lead me to finding a partner in crime. Our place is smack bang in the centre of temptation. Our tiny cobbled street is lined with jazz bars, restaurants, galleries and exhibition spaces. The view outside my window is of a first floor hairdressing salon and the eccentric owner's neon red lit sign that reads 'Cut Me'.

There are many colourful characters that belong to the night here. Darry is a music producer and Amsterdam native, who I've met a few times and discussed the ins and outs of the underground scene with.

"Brussels has this family energy about it. It's like a cosmopolitan village. I started my career here in music and the scene has an underground, avant garde, aspect to it that's really enticing"

He's been living here for 19 years and plans to set up his own music label. He describes the city as strange but interesting which can be partially attributed to the heady late 80's and early 90's Belgian dance music explosion known as The New Beat. The most interesting and intricate post industrial sounds in the world of electronic music emerged from here creating a new subculture. Today, the Belgians are extremely proud of their music credentials and Brussels as a city is still adapting to the aftershock of the era. When wandering around the centre aimlessly, almost all the looping narrow streets lead to a vinyl

shop.

Brussels most certainly moves to its own sonic beat, removed from the heavy politics and policies of the EU district. It has its own treasured nightlife institutions such as the mind-boggling Madame Moustache and music haven, Café Central. Here I've met some real life Bruxellaires and assimilated more about how the Belgian people are then I could in a year of map watching.

Brussels Guide

Watch –

'The sound of Belgium' and 'Ex Drummer'. These are two excellent Belgian films that showcase the Belgians originality with the form.

Listen –

Simi Nah 'Dressing Room'

Drink –

La Chouffe, a blonde ale that's delicious with a meal or as the first drink of the night. For later on, MAES is the larger of choice in clubs and it costs just 2 euro

Eat –

Fries and mussels. Money is too tight for the latter but if there is one thing the Belgians know how to do its chips. For those of you with a condiment phobia, beware, the Belgians love to load their fries with a disproportionate amount of mayonnaise.

The man, in his early 50s, kept me at the booth for 20 minutes, and we chatted about his ex-wife, and what a bitch she was for taking his cats

Selling music to the Irish

Joseph Conroy goes on a tour of Dublin's record shops – some good, some great, and some just awkward

When HMV announced in January 2013 that they were pulling out of the republic the news was greeted with distress in many corners. Grafton/Henry St wouldn't be the same without the HMV – where else could you passively browse albums, DVDs, games and electronics before you downloaded, streamed or bought them online?

In reality, it was no surprise that HMV was in trouble. What's surprising is that high-street music shops have managed to survive for so long.

Irish retailers have one major geographical advantage over other territories – the lack of an Amazon presence in the country. The shipping cost and Sterling/Euro exchange rate mean that Amazon UK prices struggle to undercut the high-street here.

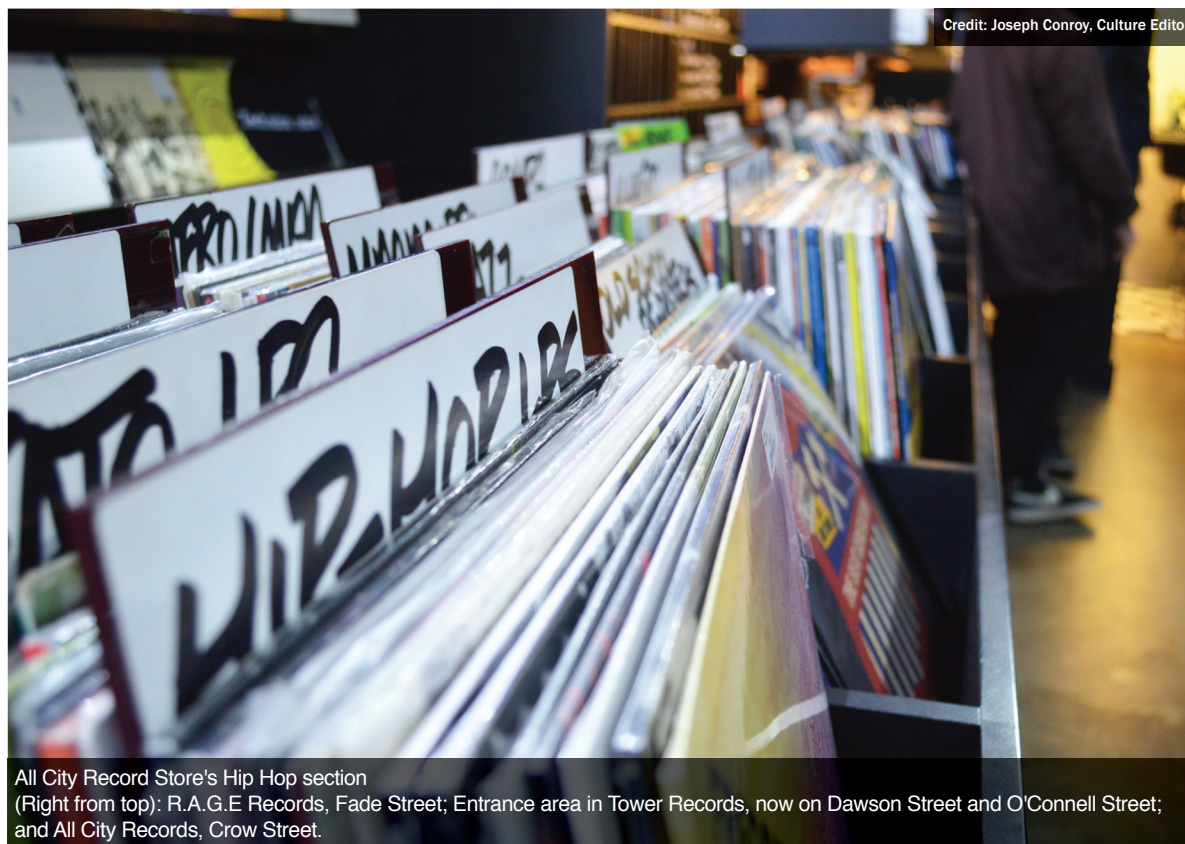
Last Friday, I went around Dublin taking some photos to go with this article. I started off with the new Tower on Dawson St. The shop moved there at the start of the previous week – this was my second time in the shop, the first being the day after it opened. It was packed then, and still busy now at an off-peak time on a Friday afternoon.

A few weeks ago I tried to get someone from Tower to talk to me about the move, the email exchange ended with a statement from their people promising that the new space would be “a retail destination, with lots of dedicated areas, lots of places for people to sit down, have a coffee, charge their phones and listen to music. It will be the same Tower Records indie record store vibe in a bigger, brighter space”.

It seems that they've delivered on almost all of these promises. It's a nice space with lots going on – the shop is darker than Wicklow St was, but not in a bad way. It's full of little nooks and crannies, small areas set off from the main retail space for classical music or kids DVDs.

Walking into the new Tower initially feels a bit like walking into an Urban Outfitters – the space by the door is dedicated to merchandise, action figures, coffee mugs, books, and headphones, with one sidewall preserved for new CDs and DVDs.

Right next to the entrance two items caught my eye – the box-set of *Breaking Bad* Series One going for €16.99



All City Record Store's Hip Hop section
(Right from top): R.A.G.E Records, Fade Street; Entrance area in Tower Records, now on Dawson Street and O'Connell Street; and All City Records, Crow Street.

and the final series going for €29.99. Everyone who I know saw the show end five months ago on Netflix, as part of their €6.99 a month subscription, or via some less legitimate means, somewhere else online.

The challenge that these retailers face is bridging the gap between their prices and the online alternatives. Tower have been doing what they do very well, they have well curated stores, pricey on the DVD front but competitive on music. They offer a 10 percent student discount and have the biggest selection of new vinyl in the country.

I hope the Dawson St shop does well. There's a nice new axis on Dawson St between Tower, Hodges and Figgis and Walter Mitty across the road, making the street an essential stop-off during any day spent floating around town.

Vinyl Fantasy

While streaming has been the big story in music over the last few years, there has also been a boom happening at the other end of the technological spectrum – vinyl records have continued their comeback. Figures in the UK show that vinyl sales doubled in 2013, and that sales are up a massive 800 percent since 2007.

Many small but well loved record stores were forced out of business in Dublin during the recession. The shops that are still open have had to offer something special to survive. They have had to find their own niche within this niche market.

Gib Cassidy owns Elastic Witch, a small record store based in The Twist-

ed Pepper on Middle Abbey Street. Gib cannot see this vinyl boom ending anytime soon:

“It's really taken off and as people start to have that little bit of extra cash again you can see vinyl is still growing”.

Gib doesn't see internet services like Spotify as a threat to a retailers like him: “A lot of the people who buy vinyl will also be using those platforms too, they'll come in and say I was listening to this album by The Knife on Spotify last night, do you have the vinyl?”

Elastic Witch was recently picked by *Buzzfeed* as one of the world's 27 'must visit' record stores.

The shop shares the ground floor of The Twisted Pepper with Vice Coffee (who have taken over the space 3Fe once occupied and has carried on in the same vein as its predecessor), a vintage clothes shop and a barber. By night the venue is one of Dublin's most popular night clubs. All these activities feed off of each other.

All City on Crow Street in Temple Bar is another successful niche record store. The shop's approach is similar to Elastic Witch. It also has its own record label which has been successful both in Ireland and abroad. The shop also has a barber and sells street art and spray paint along side its carefully curated selection of electronic and hip hop records.

The R.A.G.E on Fade Street also echoes this approach. They sell both vinyl records and retro video games. They have recently expanded the space they dedicate to vinyl – re-branding the record part of the shop

“
Stepping into a Golden Discs outlet is like stepping into a time capsule from the turn of the millenium – you half expect David Gray's *White Ladder* to still be at the top of the albums chart
”

as its own entity called The Record Spot.

The Secret Book and Record Store on Wicklow street is probably the worst kept secret in the capital – and one of the nicest places to browse books and records.

High-Street Stragglers

Back to the bigger boys. While Tower have cherry picked from a bunch of trends going on in independent record shops and put them together in the new store, what have the other big high-street players been up to?

Well... not a whole lot really...

Both HMV and Golden Discs have weathered high profile financial problems and both are still standing.

The expansion of Golden Discs during 2013 was one of the year's stranger musical stories. They actually opened seven shops last year. This is the same Golden Discs who went into examinership in 2009, with debts approaching €12,000,000 and reported losses of €697,972 in 2011.

When I got in contact with the company a representative cited their 'Irishness' as a major selling point, but it's hard to imagine how much further this inertia can get them.

Stepping into a Golden Discs outlet is like stepping into a time capsule from the turn of the millennium – you half expect David Gray's *White Ladder* to still be at the top of the albums chart.

DVD's occupy the bulk of the ground floor and most of the music is upstairs. When I stopped by last Friday I hung around the first floor for about five minutes – the place was deserted apart from me and the cashier. Grafton Street was packed but not a sinner came in. It started to get a bit awkward, so I left.

HMV are back, their Henry Street shop is going again. The formula is still essentially the same as it's been for the last 10 years, with a few tweaks here and there (including an expanded vinyl section). Again, it's hard to see how they can adapt to operate a shop on that scale without offering something more. HMV Ireland is now linked with DVD rentalists XtraVision – what's that thing they say about misery and company?



FEATURES

The boys from Killybegs

Pooching and divilment – **Eoghan McNeill** meets the fishermen of Killybegs, Co Donegal

“The Dutchman. They wanted €5million of a bond off him, and he told them to feck off. Threw €250,000 at them.”

The Dutchman is Gerrit Plug, master of the Annalies Ilena, a 144 metre “super-trawler.” “They” are the Irish government. Plug was caught “high-grading” off the coast of Donegal: choosing to only log and bring ashore high-quality fish, and throwing less valuable specimens back in the sea. High-grading helps fishermen squeeze more profit from quotas allotted to them by their home governments.

Plug’s ship was boarded by Irish Navy officers last month and ordered to dock in Killybegs, Donegal pending trial. In this kind of case, the ship’s master is required to pay a bond commensurate with the value of catch and gear on-board to have his ship released.

The state set the figure at €5.8million; the High Court thought €250,000 to be more suitable. The boat’s owners paid the bond and the Annalies Ilena took to sea again.

To Pat Johnston, a Killybegs fisherman, Plug is a “poocher.” Pooching, a playful term belying the seriousness with which the practice is treated, covers all kinds of divilment fishermen get up to with logbooks so as to maximise the value of a haul.

Pat doesn’t begrudge Plug’s pooching: “Sure everybody breaks the rules”, he says. He recalls, almost fondly, the days before electronic logging and 24/7 tracking on trawlers: “There were men pooching in Killybegs for a long time. A lot of boats, including my own”.

Betty, Pat’s wife and co-owner of their small trawlers the Progress and the Barbarella, is similarly frank: “I’m not going to say we’re whiter than white”. “You can’t be”, reasons Pat.

To compete with super-trawlers like the Annalies Ilena it seems, you need to do a small bit of pooching. “You’ll always get poochers. If you want anything like their money you’ve got to do some yourself”.

The feeling in Killybegs is the Annalies Ilena’s seizure was political. Pat and Betty reckon it was no coincidence the navy found themselves 100 miles off Tory, a small island off Donegal, where the Annalies Ilena was fishing. “No, no. She was targeted,” opines Pat.

Irish boats are finding it hard to catch mackerel this year. They aren’t being helped by “men catching them and doing this, that and the other with them”, says Pat referring to the Annalies Ilena’s alleged high-grading. He deduces that Irish fishermen complaining about foreign super-trawlers’ high-grading drove the navy to respond with the seizure of one of the world’s largest trawlers.

Pat may not begrudge the Annalies Ilena’s pooching; he does not however sympathise with her owners. They can afford the inconvenience of the court case: “The turnover those



boys have. Jesus...” he trails off. The High Court heard the ship was worth €125,000 a day at sea.

Pat also wonders whether “what’s good for a Dutchman is good for an Irishman”. If he was caught pooching on the Progress and was ordered to pay a €50,000 bond, would the state accept €10,000? Betty says it doesn’t seem to work like that; Pat however, reckons he’d “test them.”

The fact one of Pat’s boats has not been seized is not for lack of trying on the navy’s part. “We were beginning to feel like we were under siege at one stage”, says Betty. They say their boats which were boarded six times last year, were being “targeted.”

It got to the point where Pat had to take an angle grinder to the steel ladder on the side of the Progress in an effort to stop navy officers from “creeping” into the ship in the middle of the night. “Let them knock on the side if they want in”, says Pat.

“You’re there in the middle of the night – dawn and early morning seem to be the times they like to do it – half asleep, next thing some navy officer is standing over you. It scares the shite out of you”, says Pat of the checks he has endured.

Betty lays the blame for the navy’s zealotry on the Irish government: “The French and Spanish governments, they back their fisherman. They Spanish look at the law and ask how can we enforce this to the best advantage of our fishermen? The Irish government just say ‘we’ll jump as high as you (the EU) want’”.

“It’s all coming from Europe”, says Betty on maritime law, “it’s over-regulated”. The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) sets quotas on what fish EU member states can catch based

Killybegs Harbour, where the Annalies Ilena was docked.
Credit: Bart Bosschot, via Flickr

on fish populations and tradition of fishing in a given country.

Pat and Betty, typical of most in the industry, question the validity of the population surveys used by the CFP: “The problem with quotas is the science. They’re doing the surveys at the wrong times in the wrong areas”, says Pat.

He says he “could’ve flogged monkfish all year last year”, but “had to tie up after a few days” having exhausted the meagre quota allotted to him. Knowing the fish were out there, but not having an adequate quota to catch them “was a killer.”

He talks of a contemporary who fishes cod off Norway and has seen the price of the fish drop to €1 per kilo (it costs up to €5 per kilo in Ireland), stocks are that plentiful. Both species are “under pressure, according to science”, he says.

On the occasions Pat has inadvertently caught over his quota, he’s been forced to throw dead fish (discards) back to sea: “If you take them ashore, you’re jailed”. Last year, Wexford fisherman Seamus O’Flaherty, in an effort to highlight the inadequacies of the law, gave

away boxes of monkfish at Kilmore Quay rather than the discard the fish at sea.

The EU is planning to ban discards. Although the policy is not popular with fishermen, banning it will present its own problems. Pat says he could take the Barbarella out in Donegal Bay and take in twenty boxes of fish in one haul. Of these, only three or four would be of sellable quality.

Banning discards would force him to declare the 16 or 17 boxes of unsellable fish. On the requirement to discard good fish, and the proposed-banning of the practice, Pat can only say with resignation: “To me, it’s just... just a whole balls up”. Laws on discards are impractical because the CFP “is all based on science and don’t listen to fishermen”, according to Pat. Pat and Betty, unlike global warming sceptics, are not stubbornly defiant of scientific evidence though.

Both accept the need for quotas and regulation, but are frustrated at the lack of consultation with fisherman on the specifics of both, and policy makers’ refusal to accept the validity of fishermen’s experiences.

“They don’t have to take our views as gospel”, says Betty, “We would just like to have them acknowledged”. “Fishermen want to have a sustainable future; we aren’t criminals who want to destroy the sea”, she adds.

The Annalies Ilena’s court case has been adjourned until March 25th. It will be heard in the Donegal Circuit Court in Donegal Town. In these cases, sanctions handed out tend to be comparative to the initial bond imposed. The ship’s owners, therefore, could face a fine of more than €5million. All for a bit of pooching.

A full house at Counselling, versus a flush Chaplaincy



Al McConnell looks at the continuing crisis in mental health services for students, and compares the funding of Counselling and Chaplaincy

As part of an investigation into college counselling services, carried out by *The Edition* last year, it was found that those working in the area saw the situation as a crisis.

Cuts to staffing, significant budget decreases, and increasing demand had left the services at breaking point.

Nearly one year on from the beginning of that investigation, this crisis has not been addressed.

"I would say we're possibly under more strain – demand has continued to increase and we still have the same number of staff," said Nita Whelan, head of DIT Counselling, last month.

A similar pattern has been found in University College Cork (UCC), whose head of counselling Paul Moriarty also spoke to *The Edition* in last year's investigation.

"I don't think there's much changed in the past year," he said last week. "Demand has continued to increase, the numbers have continued to go up, and we went above 1000 students for one-to-one counselling for the first time last year. That's definitely gone up quite a bit again this year."

Although both institutions have been able to make more sessions available in the last year, neither counsellor feels it is sufficient to match demand.

Facilitating additional hours largely relies upon trainees, as the budget has not been provided to replace or hire new counselling staff.

"At the moment we have a large number of trainees [over 10 at the time of print] who give us around three or four hours per week," explained Whelan.

Whelan went on to explain that trying to maximise the number of hours offered by DIT Counselling, space constraints have been yet another barrier.

Counselling funding

'Difficult decisions' and 'tough choices' are two tenets of Austerity

DIT. With Counselling close to the point of no return, the use of student money to protect Chaplaincy, which in many ways overlaps with counselling services, might now be called in for a 'difficult decision'.

Since last semester, DIT has taken some measures to address the lengthening waiting list for Counselling, which is funded through the Recurrent Grant (i.e. from DIT itself).

€25,000 has been added to the budget, taken from €736,900 that was given to DIT by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) after a revision to the 2013 grant allocation.

The Institute has also turned to external tendering as a short-term measure for easing excessive waiting lists. As funding will not be awarded to replace lost counselling staff, €60,000 is to be provided from the Campus Life budget after a tender process was completed last semester for externally provided counselling sessions.

This approach will bring with it the usual criticisms of hiring on short-term, high-cost external tenders, but may also be open to question over whether outside services are as suited to the particular issues that arise in student counselling.

As Moriarty said, in a separate discussion on the state of Counselling:

"My conviction around this at the moment is that Student Counselling is distinct from Counselling. Student counsellors can bring experience and expertise that has been built up in the area over time, and can use links with academics and other services."

Chaplaincy funding

In the meantime, DIT Chaplaincy, which is funded through the Student Life Council (student capitation money) plus a small non-pay grant



Credit: McGill, CA

of around €17,000 from the Institute, has a budget for 2013/2014 that is €45,000 higher than the previous year.

This is in order to hire a replacement Church of Ireland chaplain, a position that has not been filled in recent years.

DIT Counselling is in similar need of replacement staff, with numbers now standing at around 50 percent of where they were four years ago.

In the previous investigation, Whelan told *The Edition*:

"It has been catastrophic for us. We had one retirement, two early retirements, and one who did not return from a career break – none of these can be replaced due to the public service moratorium."

Speaking this month, Whelan showed these circumstances continue to take a toll:

"Not having the same personnel, you can't produce the same results no matter how hard you try. Our team halved, and that's the bottom line."

This moratorium is now no longer in place, but the staff numbers have not been recouped.

Similar services

In a Chaplaincy 'service update' last month, in which every branch of DIT must explain its activities and expenditure, it set out a range of student and staff 'one-to-one interventions'. This included mention of topics such as 'bereavement', 'addiction', 'course issues', 'financial' and 'relationship'.

DIT's Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, Alan Hilliard, agreed with the overlap between Counselling and Chaplaincy: "Yes, there are similarities. We work very closely with Counselling Services especially when immediate intervention is required. Those who have studied this area know there are degrees of difference between one might term 'helpful conversations' and various levels of counselling."

Ring-fencing student money

The fact that the two services are funded from separate, ring-fenced sources might now require a re-appraisal.

This would require a significant change within DIT, in order to redirect student money towards a service not currently funded through the Student Life Council.

Student surveys, however, would appear to support that move.

In a DITSU survey carried out last month, students felt Chaplaincy was the least important service to be in place at Grangegorman in September 2014 (with only 28 percent saying it was 'essential'). Counselling, however, was perceived as essential by 82 percent of respondents.

These results echoed a 2012 DITSU survey of student opinion, in which

Chaplaincy was again in last place in terms of importance, with Counselling in fifth place out of 11 services.

According to DITSU VP for Welfare, Fiachra Duffy: "Students have told us over years that they feel Counselling is essential, but Chaplaincy much less so. Counselling is in its biggest crisis ever, yet Chaplaincy can get replacement staff? I would question whether that is in the students' best interests."

Duffy continued: "To tell a student with a mental health issue that funding is ring-fenced and that's why Counselling is struggling – that shouldn't be an issue. The priority should be students' mental health, and it shouldn't matter where money comes from, what matters are the services provided."

Counselling at Grangegorman

DIT Counselling has not received the protection and support that was demonstrably needed this time last year. With the move to Grangegorman looming, further questions will be asked of DIT's commitment to its counselling services.

At the moment, Counselling is included in the open-plan office layout for the new site.

As with any service that is inherently private and confidential in nature, the idea of being based in an open-plan office will raise questions. No guarantee has been offered that private rooms, which would only be available by booking, would be free for emergency sessions.

Brian Gormley, Manager of Campus life, has told *The Edition* the issue of suitable Counselling space in Grangegorman is being "actively considered by the Implementation Group for the new campus", and specifications for Counselling rooms have been received from the Irish Association of University and College Counsellors (IAUCC).

"The specific needs of Counselling, as well as the Access Service, Disability Service and Careers, who also require appropriate, confidential, one-to-one meeting rooms, are being considered in order to get the best possible solution for students," he said, confirming that no decision has yet been taken on the exact location of student support staff.

However, it is understood that if the current open-plan proposal goes ahead, there is a possibility that no counselling staff would be on the new site in September.

One year ago there were serious questions about the future of DIT Counselling and the supports it is allowed to provide to students. Though emergency sessions are always available to students, the overall service is now in dire need of change. The questions have become louder, but an answer is yet to be heard.

Counselling

- Funding from Recurrent Grant (from DIT)

- Among the most valued services in student surveys

- Status: 50% staff reduction in past four years, increasing demand on services, waiting lists over a month

Chaplaincy

- Funding primarily from Student Life Council (over 90% student money)

- Consistently the least valued service in student surveys

- Status: Hiring a new permanent Chaplain this year, to replace a previous Church of Ireland position. Cost: €45,000

hey you



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How to ace your job interview

Got yourself an interview? Congrats – **Aisling Gill** has a few tips to make sure you seal the deal and get that job, so you can fund your social life and, more importantly, buy more than just noodles on a daily basis.



"You've taken the 'casual' interview a bit far"

1 Know their business

This doesn't mean just know the name of it. Do your research if it's retail, know the brands they sell or for restaurants know their delicacy. They may ask you to tell them what is it about their business that appeals to you, so be sure to be able to tell them different aspects that got your interest. (Making these up is completely acceptable once they don't realise you're doing so).

2 Arrive on time

Be ten or fifteen minutes early and try not to be in an absolute sweat

when you walk through the door. Girls make sure you're early enough to fix your make up and please don't have half the bottle pasted on your face as this will definitely not go down well. But make sure you're not that person who is far too early which will resort in you sitting there for ages awkwardly as the same person passes you over and over again.

3 Be confident

Show that you can adjust to new situations and smile and say hello to those you meet. Don't go overboard on this by waving frantically at every-

one who passes you by as they will most likely think you're off your head and yes that means you will not get the job; unless you're looking for a job holding a sign outside a shop where being suspiciously excited is exactly what they need.

4 Know your key strengths

Often you will be asked to list off your key strengths and sometimes asked to give examples of where you've demonstrated these. Think these through beforehand so you are clear as to what you will say when asked. It's almost like you're taking

your leaving cert orals again except you don't have to have fifty pages of replies you don't even understand learnt off.

5 Dress appropriately!

Know the kind of job you're going for and dress accordingly. If you're going for a summer internship in a company, suit and tie for boys and trousers/blazer for girls (Girls can also wear a dress but you're more likely to have trousers than a 'suitable' dress in your wardrobe). Overall it's better to be overdressed than it is to be underdressed.

6 Bring a copy of your CV.

This will infer that you came prepared. Have it typed up neatly and it should be short and concise. Do not hand write it whatever you do! This would be an epic fail and would look as if you had your 5 year old sister did it for you.

Overall you should get a job using these tips and if not, then yes, there is definitely something wrong with you.

How to keep your sanity while driving to DIT

LAUREN O'HALLERON



If you look at the DIT website for directions to the college, you will find that it provides bus routes, train routes, walking routes and cycling routes. There is no option to drive. Perhaps they're encouraging environmentally friendly behaviour from their students, or perhaps they believe that anyone who chooses to drive to a campus located in Dublin City Centre must be nuts!

Driving to college was always on the agenda. I never once considered taking the bus or Luas because

what's the point of having a car if you can't use it? For me, being without my car is like being without my phone, it's like a part of me is missing. So I drive into college every day.

First thing I needed to do before starting my course back in September 2013 was to plan my route. I knew traffic would be heavy in the mornings so I would need to leave my house pretty early. My first three chosen routes were disasters. Even though I left my house two hours before my first class, I always wound up being late. Finally, I found a route that got me to campus in around an hour and a half, so plan carefully.

Once your route is set, be prepared for a lot of stopping and starting, both going in and coming home, de-

Road rage is inevitable – other drivers will test your patience, and vice versa

pending on your schedule. You may not know this, but city driving eats up more petrol than country driving, so you may need to top up more than once a week, again, depending on how many days you're in college for.

Road rage is inevitable. Other drivers will test your patience and vice versa. I find that listening to music helps, or perhaps you love listening to the drive-time shows. It keeps you distracted, but not so distracted that your driving is impaired, instead it distracts you from the pure 'dickheadedness' of every impatient driver you'll encounter.

Don't be surprised if your clutch foot and left shoulder ache. With all the braking you'll be doing, your

clutch foot will be constantly pressing down on the pedal and the left shoulder pain comes from constantly changing gears.

Finally you reach your campus, but there's no student parking. I attend Aungier Street campus so I have to park in St Stephen's Green multi-story Q Park, which allows students to pay just €7 a day so long as you stamp your ticket in the college before returning to your car. From there it's a five-minute walk to campus.

You might wonder if driving into college is actually worth all of this. There are plenty of benefits of course. No need to wait in the cold, wind or rain for buses, trains or the Luas. You won't have some stranger who sits next to you even though there are plenty of other free seats around you! And when you're home, you're home, there's no walking 10-20 minutes from the bus/train/Luas stop. What more could you wish for?

Information and advice on what matters to you.

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REVIEW

Bear

South William Street

Eimear O'Hehir

A rugby bear, and no I'm not talking about mascots here, I'm talking about Bear restaurant on South William Street.

Bear restaurant is well known rugby star Jamie Heaslip's venture in collaboration with the Jo Burger franchise. Jo Burger's family including favourites like Skinflint and Crackbird. If you've been to any of the aforementioned you'll have an idea of what to expect here.

The tables are simple, with napkins and cutlery in recycled tin cans and filament light bulbs hang above. The effect is all very shabby chic and the lack of frills in the restaurant gives the place an almost industrial vibe.

For anybody who knows the difference between a Gilbert and an O'Neills GAA Special, you'll know

that rugby players are strong, big, beefy men and this is resonated through the menu at Heaslip's Bear. The menu includes all kinds of wonderful cuts of beef from Rosary to Bavette to London Broil, if you love steak you won't want to leave! Their concept is simple – taking cuts of beef and turning them into something wonderful

We were greeted by friendly and efficient staff whom showed us to our table and answered any and every question we had about the different cuts of meat, having previously looked the menu up online!

We started off by ordering two glasses of the homemade lemonades, we ordered the lime and ginger one and being old skool the lemonade one as well. The drinks were served in huge jars with straws and were really lovely, they were refreshing and fruity. While we're on the subject of drinks,

Jamie Heaslip and Co's Bear Restaurant on South William Street

Credit: Hicken Lighting



Bear have an amazing wine list to boast about and a very reasonable one at that.

Bear aren't that big on starters so we jumped straight into the mains, being lunch time we both ordered minute steak with fries (€9.95).

Steaks were perfectly cooked, packed with lots of flavour, tasty and cooked to our liking and garnished with garlic butter.

There's a choice of sauces including

chimichurri, roast chilli and pink peppercorn whiskey thyme butter at an additional €2 each.

When you get your steak, you don't get the standard serrated edge steak knife that most restaurants begrudgingly give you, you're given this almost weapon as a piece of cutlery. Its actually called an Opinel No.9 a French pocket knife which you can buy from the restaurant for €20 if you so wish.

Bear doesn't do desserts, the fundamental idea being - get in, get fed, get out – but with the size of their mains you won't have room for dessert! We spent €28 for two mains and two drinks, unreal value for what we got.

All in all Heaslip and Co have scored a winning try here. So if you need you're rugby fix after the Six Nations, give this place a go it certainly won't disappoint.

Take Five: Awful Oscars outfits

Hannah Popham LIFESTYLE EDITOR



Whoopi Goldberg (1993)

Channelling her inner Aladdin, Whoopi's Oscar look in 1993 was more Jedward Christmas panto than celestial elegance. Heels that match the pattern of your trousers were not even that acceptable back in the nineties. Stay behind that red line Miss Goldberg before someone mistakes you for a misplaced wax figure of a character from Shrek.



Russell Brand (2011)

A navy suit can often be a great alternative to the traditional tuxedos we see walking the red carpet of the Oscars, but Russell Brand's 2011 mishmash of black and navy left a lot to be desired. Twinned with a pajama-plaid patterned shirt, matted hair and manic eyebrows, Brand looked more escaped Manson family than Oscar royalty. Don't be trying your luck with any job interviews dressed like that Russell.



Cher (1988)

In 1988, Cher could get away with a lot, but not this bizarre sparkly faux-Armenian getup. Looking a little too much like a cut-price belly dancer and carrying a bizarre black curtain behind her for the night, Cher was more Arabian nightmare than stylish icon. The dress is so unflattering that her perfectly toned body looks far wider than it actually is. Check out those shower-curtain spots on the fabric across her stomach; bedsit-inspired chic? Not exactly. She looks threatening; do not try to buy a kebab from her.



Sally Kirkland (2002)

Is that oversized ham trying to seduce you? No wait, it's just little known actress Sally Kirkland in what appears to be curtains stolen from a struggling theatre. In a dress that seems about as subtle as Lady Gaga's meat frock but boasting far less originality, Sally embraces the inexplicable strings falling around her legs in an attempt to hide her faux electrocuted tresses. Not her best look, but if you saw her similarly questionable "exploding tent dress" look in 2007, it was debatably not her worst.



Melissa Leo (2011)

It's rumoured that the gorgeous *21 Grams* star Melissa Leo spent all of 2011 hiding under seats in movie theatres and gathering her fan's discarded popcorn kernels in order to create this dress. Her dress is square, unflattering and looks a bit like something you'd spot on the table in the parochial house in *Father Ted*. Her subtle look of embarrassment probably reflects the moment when she realised this. Sorry Melissa.

A quick guide to: Talking shite about rugby

HANNAH POPHAM
LIFESTYLE EDITOR



If you're anything like me, you may have about as much interest in rugby as you do in Marty Whelan's new hair transplant.

Unfortunately, there are going to be several moments in your life when you are going to have to pretend to appreciate the sport. A modest knowledge of rugby can come in handy for situations like: charming that beaut in Coppers after a successful Six Nations match, having painfully awkward chats with your boss before work, trying to impress the other half's rugby-obsessed parents or endure a lazy Sunday spent with them watching Leinster throttle Toulouse without falling asleep.

Unfortunately for me, my job involves a lot of serving pints to rugby fans and my go-to reply of "yeah it'd be nice if Dublin wins alright" to their cryptic commentary at the bar often fell short and resulted in the same expression they would have if I had spat in their Guinness. Also important message for all of my fellow

Don't pass comment on how fashionable the ones that look like faux-leopard print are; your comment will not be taken seriously

“

rugby fan imposters: stop relying on name-dropping Ronan O'Gara. He now seems to wear a suit and sit in that box room with the bald guy and talk about champagne a lot.

So, in my years of being surrounded by a sport I will never understand and a fleeting interest that makes me only barely appreciate running into Brian O'Driscoll on my way to the staff toilets, what have I learned?

The basics: Ireland are great, New Zealand are better, but never admit that or they'll be onto you right away. The main idea seems to be to have massive thighs and to try get the ball over the line without being thrown to the ground in a compromising position so that you can get a try (5 points) and then kick the ball

a ridiculously far distance (a conversion). If you do this without hitting the big metal bar or making the crowd boo, it'll be 2 points.

A drop goal (kind of like a rogue kick that comes out of nowhere with no sneaking over the line like a ballet dancer on steroids) is worth 3 points, as is a penalty kick. Kind of confusing, right? You can see why this level of knowledge has taken me years to gather. When they're not playing on the Irish team, most of the players either play for Leinster or Munster or spend the majority of their time parking their jeeps outside the Shelbourne. Also, if you're used to watching penalty-desperate football players - these guys do not mess around. Those funny hats they wear? It's to protect their ears from being

Time to celebrate? Try commenting on a 'great take' (translation: good catch) or the 'crucial line break', and cheer when everyone else cheers

PULLED OFF by their teammates' aforementioned massive thighs. Also, don't pass comment on how fashionable the ones that look like faux-leopard print are; your comment will not be taken seriously.

And if all else fails, reel off these classic gems as you deem appropriate, you'll eventually get the knack: "Ah, rugby truly is a game of inches."/"It's all down to the bounce of the ball-that's the beauty of rugby."/"God, that was some line out, did you see that scrum?" And with that information lads and lassies, go conquer. Or at least try to get caught up in the conversion to rugby fandom. (I'm sorry; I'm never going to know enough to take this seriously, BOD and co. please forgive my well-intended ignorance.)



The most specific and completely accurate horoscope you'll read this month

Hannah Popham
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Pisces

During the course of your birthday celebrations, you're going to have a bad reaction to an alcohol from a land far, far away. Think tequila, not New Zealand Marlborough Sauvignon. You're not that classy. #Sorrynotsorry



Aries

Oh Aries, you little minx. You could do with an STI test and a little more self-respect. Stop pretending that it's going to turn into a relationship, 2014 is not going to be the year you finally find love. Beware of redheaded lecturers.



Taurus

You've always been stubborn, but

that thing you pulled last week in the can-teen was the last straw. We've all had enough of your shit, Taurus. This is not a time to apply for jobs, something lucrative and highly illegal is coming your way in early March, wait until then.



Gemini

Look, one of your lecturers just hates you and always will. Don't fight it. It looks like a night of Coppers, Heineken and self-loathing will be enough for you to temporarily forget that. Be careful on the internet, someone is fo' sho' catfishing you.



Cancer

You're about to lose a lot of money in an idiotic way; be creative with it. Don't



trust anyone with freckles-they do not have your true interests at heart and are only pretending to share your secret love for the TV show, Extreme Couponing. I know it hurts.

Leo

Don't book any holidays soon, you are about to have a royal falling out with the person you were planning to go to Magaluf with-they're just jealous of your impeccable style and undeniable wit. They also think you're an asshole. Oops.



Virgo

I hate to be the one to tell you this Virgo, but it is not still socially acceptable to wear deodorant in place of perfume or cologne. This isn't the nineties. You're going to have an extremely weird moment in



a nightclub bathroom. I'm not sure what to say about this.

Libra

I know you think you're extremely good-looking Libra, but I think it's time you lowered your standards a bit. If you've ever wanted to try online dating-here's your time to shine. You're also probably going to be hit by a car but it will make for a mildly humorous story.



Scorpio

This is not going to be a pleasant week for you in work Scorpio. It looks fiercely like a customer is going to throw up on you and that you're probably going to be underpaid. Again. This is life Scorpio it's not always pretty.



Sagittarius

You're going to have a very unusual encounter in the gym this week Scorpio, keep an open mind and an eye on your underwear. Stop wearing horizontal stripes; no-one is ever going to take you seriously. You should also definitely not book Garth Brooks tickets.



Capricorn

You know that weird thing you've always wanted to try in bed? Yeah, no one is ever going to think that's normal. Serious potential for you to become an internet sensation with it this week though, if you're brave enough. Don't eat any chicken wings this week-you'll choke and die.



Aquarius

As self-obsessed as you usually are, this week extremely important people will take an inexplicable, slightly ironic interest in your thoughts on euthanasia and the situation in the Ukraine. Don't disappoint them.



CULTURE

FILM



'Enjoyable, stylish & humorous' Grand Budapest Hotel

Director: Wes Anderson

Liam Kennedy

Grade: **B**

Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is an enjoyable, stylish and humorous film which will delight fans of his usual work.

The comedy-drama follows the adventure of the concierge of a famous hotel as he attempts to prove that he was framed for murder. The main role is played by Ralph Fiennes.

Film fans have come to expect odd, unique efforts from Anderson (*Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Moonrise Kingdom*) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* doesn't disappoint, offering enough quirks and witty moments to entertain admirers of his previous works as well as casual viewers.

As well as this, the movie is aesthetically pleasing, featuring colourful costumes and sets throughout. Sharp dialogue and a number of amusing scenes also add to the spectacle for viewers.

The Grand Budapest Hotel includes a whole host of interesting and unusual characters, brought to life by a long list of talented actors and actresses including Willem Dafoe, Jude Law and Saoirse Ronan.

Despite this, Fiennes is certainly the star performer and is perfectly cast in the main role of the hotel's concierge, Monsieur H. Gustave. This part is pivotal to the plot and the film wouldn't work nearly as well without a spot-on performance from the English actor.

Fiennes portrays the role with real charm and excellent comic ability. His delivery of lines is flawless and as a result he gets the most out of a strange but well-written character. He is also surprisingly endearing and likeable.

Written by Anderson, the story is a relatively simple one, but it is told

in an effective way. He makes use of a sort of layered narrative at the beginning and this helps to add another element of intrigue to an already fascinating film.

One of the main criticisms of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is that Wes Anderson doesn't quite get the most out of every member of the film's large cast. The talent of certain big names seems to be wasted with little screen time.

The film is also slightly uneven, struggling at times to balance comedy and drama, but the tone is fairly light-hearted throughout which compensates for some of the film's faults and ensures that the movie remains enjoyable.

At 100 minutes *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is also a decent length as it doesn't drag out and manages to sustain the audience's interest for its full duration.



The Stag

Director: John Butler

Stuart Comerford

Grade: **A**

What may seem like a small fun, light-hearted comedy on the surface, turns out to be an incredibly fun, emotionally moving story which addresses the topic of masculinity in 2014.

It's simple, it's really simple even – it's just a group of guys going on a Stag, and they unfortunately have to share it with the bride's crazy brother, known only as "The Machine" – so what makes it so special? It's an incredibly well executed, heart-warming tale in which every character is unique and lovable, and each actor delivers a fantastic performance in their respective

roles. Andrew Scott of BBC's *Sherlock* is probably the main attraction here, but even his brilliant performance is easily upstaged by Hugh O'Connor and Peter McDonald who completely dissolve into their roles.

Peter McDonald and John Butler's script brings to life these characters in a very fun-loving way. There's nothing outrageous or false about the comedic moments, they're genuine and at times heart-warming, which is a welcome change from what we've come to expect from comedy films.

But beyond a few gags there's so

much honesty in the storytelling and how the events unfold that you can't help but be drawn to it and immerse yourself in the characters' situation, to the point where you feel like you're a guest at their wedding after the Stag.

The Stag brings forth a very important message about how we have a tendency to approach modern masculinity in a traditional fashion, and the movie acts as a learning experience for both the audience and the characters, resulting in the most heart-warming Irish comedy in the last 5 years.



A Long Way Down

Director: Pascal Chaumeil

Joseph Conroy
CULTURE EDITOR

Grade: **C+**

This is the latest addition to the Nick Hornby on screen cannon. His novels *Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy* all made successful transitions to the silver screen. *A Long Way Down* is probably the weakest Hornby adaptation, but it's still a good watch.

The film is based around a group of 4 lost souls who bump into each other on the top of a tall building in central London on New Years Eve. They have all gone there to jump but decide to

hold on and make a pact not to kill themselves – at least not until Valentines Day.

A Long Way Down plays for dark laughs – think about *About a Boy*, a film that dealt with a bleak story but managed to produce moments of both hilarity and real emotional engagement. *A Long Way Down* never makes you laugh too much or feel too much either.

It's nice to see Brosnan back on the

big screen, but he plays a pretty one dimensional character. Aaron Paul is brilliant. He goes serious a few times, when he does it's hard not to think *Breaking Bad* straight away.

Toni Collette's character is by far the darkest and she pulls it off pretty well. Imogen Poots is also very strong.

Overall it's not a classic, but it's very watchable film and a welcome addition to the Hornby on screen catalogue.

TV

True Detective

Sky Atlantic

Stuart Comerford



Grade: **A**

TV has become increasingly cinematic over the last decade, and for the most part we have HBO to thank for that. Now, with *True Detective*, they've gone above and beyond what could ever be expected of a TV show, and created an enthralling experience that's likely to stand as the greatest drama mini-series in TV history.

But, it's just another clichéd, buddy cop, murder-mystery thriller? To an extent: yes, and it was off-putting at first. But it's not the murder-mystery aspect of the show that commands viewership – although, it is one of the better takes on the genre in recent memory. It's the relationship between the two leading characters (played by Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey) that excels the show to unfathomable excellence.

True Detective has done something completely unheard of in TV: it has only one writer, and one director, who create every single episode together. Undoubtedly, this is a good thing.

This has created a certain level of coherence and stylistic continuity that you don't find outside of a cinema.

The story plays as a dark, moody, haunting, humanisation of two men who are mentally and emotionally falling apart at the seams. It's a dual narrative structure which rivals itself at times, leaving viewers torn between their own opinions of what's actually happening in the story – holding your attention, even through the long-winded monologues designed to challenge your understanding of humanity.

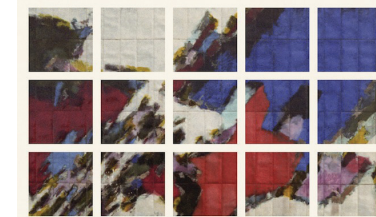
It's not an easy show to watch, it requires a certain amount of attention and an even greater ability to listen and develop your understanding of these characters. And in a total of seven episodes it has become an already iconic show for the history books, with one of the most anticipated finales of recent times coming up. This is an absolutely unmissable milestone for TV.

MUSIC

Real Estate Atlas

Joseph Conroy
CULTURE EDITOR

Real Estate
Atlas



Grade: **B+**

During their tour supporting their last album *Real Estate* played the Pitchfork music festival in Chicago. One *Chicago Tribune* journalist was reviewing each act he saw solely through the use of Twitter emoticons. *Real Estate* got two ice-cream cones, two rainbows and two surfers.

The only real criticism anyone can level at *Real Estate* is that they've failed to show any signs of evolving since their first album came out in '09. *Atlas* will sound familiar to anyone who has heard *Real Estate* before – it's the same brand of sun glazed, densely layered harmonic indie that they've always played – but the tone is starting to change.

Now in their late twenties the band sound less blissed out and more bummed out. Beneath the softer than air melodies and jangling guitar lines there's more weight than there was before. The songs have more edge. The writing is more di-

rect – less ice-creams and rainbows, more we live and die in these streets.

The album is full of longing, all the characters seem to be lost somewhere in the suburbs of New Jersey – driving around thinking about how things might have been different. Everything is a little more eerie than it was before.

Musically the album is more psychedelic than their previous releases. They have been working with more collaborators and the sound is a little more varied than it has been in the past.

Atlas is a tight collection, the ten songs clock in at a neat 38 minutes. 'Past Lives', 'The Bend', 'Primitive' and 'How Might I Live' are all brilliant tunes. You can imagine this album soundtracking a lot of people's summers. *Real Estate* might be in no hurry to change, but off the strength of this record you can't really hold that against them.

Based on a true story...

The idea of a film being based in fact gives it clout, but is that abused in Hollywood?

By **Stuart Comerford**

“Based on a True Story” is a phrase that seems to be accompanying an increasing number of the big box office films nowadays, but why? In the past 10 years, half of the best picture winners at the Oscars have been based on true stories.

With 6 of the 9 best picture nominees at this year’s Oscars falling into the “true story” category. When it comes to turning a true story into a film, we accept a certain amount of embellishment, especially considering they have to invent 2 hours’ worth of dialogue (we call this embellishment ‘dramatic license’ and it’s existed since storytelling began). It’s assumed that if you wanted the real story, you’d watch a documentary about the events – which is acceptable, the purpose of Hollywood is entertainment, and simply put: reality isn’t entertaining enough. But at what point is it acceptable for the true story to end and cinematic dramatization to take over?



Titanic (1997) is an interesting example, obviously the events of the Titanic are factual, but the entire narrative of the film (Jack and Rose) is fictional. Doing this allows for the advertising team to run to the hills and scream: “This was all real! It actually happened!” – and instantly, you have a bigger box-office draw. From a writer’s perspective, working inside of historical events already adds an air of realism and humanity to the characters, making it more believable. And when it comes to the Oscars, The Academy love to swoon over true stories; as was the case with *Argo* (2012) last year – which outside of the awards, was negatively received for the extent to which it embellished the events to make it more ‘pro-Ameri-

ca’ – even removing, from the story, a lot of the involvement Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor had to do with the rescue, and completely removing embassy employee John Sheardown’s contribution. Surely that’s pushing it a bit?

However, the more a movie tries to include, the greater the risk of it drowning in its own content. *United 93* (2006) succeeds in being a historical dramatization because it focuses on one specific event, over a short time period during 9/11 – it doesn’t try to do too much inside of 2 hours.

Prefacing a film with the phrase “Based on a True Story” subconsciously opens up viewers to believing what they see before them

– an easy way to get an emotional response. Would you still consider *12 Years a Slave* (2013) to be as good as it is, if it were an entirely fictional tale? Hollywood values emotional response over verisimilitude, and this generally happens at the cost of the truth.

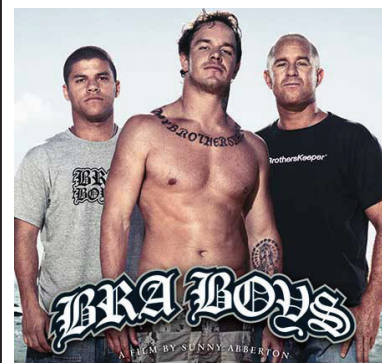
“Based on a True Story” needs to be seen as what it is: a starting point. It’s a similar situation with films based on novels – they’re different mediums, they don’t have to be the same, and they really shouldn’t be. Cinema is not the news; we’re not entertained by the news. But we cannot accept cinema as a factual representation of real events – so in that case... should it really be alright for Hollywood to advertise films as true stories?

DOCUMENTARIES

FOR A LAZY SUNDAY

Eoghan McNeill

Bra Boys:
Blood is Thicker than Water



“Get some real tattoos, you pansies”. That’s Koby Abberton, professional surfer and ‘Bra Boy’, on *Home and Away*’s Braxton brothers. The Braxtons are based on Abberton’s surf gang – *Bra Boys* – based in Sydney. This documentary tells the gang’s story: violence, drugs, a murder trial, and surfing.

Don't Go Far



This RTE Radio One documentary tells the frankly mental story of two young Dublin boys – 10 and 13 – who hopped on the DART in August 1985, and ended up in New York. Fair play to them. I’ve often hopped on the Luas for free – I’ve never made it further than Jervis Street.

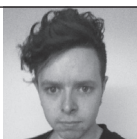
BBC Panorama:
A Licence to Murder



There has been uproar following the collapse of Lee Downey’s trial for the 1982 Hyde Park bombing. Bearing this in mind, it’s worth taking a look at this documentary which outlines British intelligence collusion with Loyalist gunmen in the killing of Pat Finucane. No one has been held accountable for this collusion.

Blind weekend at the Dublin Film Festival

JOSEPH CONROY
CULTURE EDITOR



They other weekend I had a bunch of tickets for Dublin Film Festival screenings. A few weeks before the event I had trawled through the program on the website and chosen these titles but I couldn’t quite remember which one was which. So after a long week I headed along to the first screening, *The Militant* in The Light-house.

It was Friday night and the screening was soldout. It turned out to be very good – set between two occupy encampments in Uruguay. It was nice to see the film without a tell-all trailer or PR blurb stuck in my head so I decided to go blind to all of the other screenings that I was going to over the weekend.

At half 8 the following night I headed along to *Miss Violence*. In the first



scene an 11 year old girl jumps out of a window to her death during her own birthday party.

For some reason I was expecting some sort of black comedy or life affirming coming of age story, possibly because of the opening scene’s similarity to *The Virgin Suicides* – but the relief never came. The film starts dark

The Militant (El lugar del hijo), Manuel Nieto Zas’s follow-up to the critically acclaimed The Dog Pound

and gets darker. Its a brilliantly constructed unsettling piece of cinema. 5 different scenes raised gasps from the sold-out audience.

The next night was *A Long Way Down* – again the screening in Cineworld on a Sunday night was soldout.

The last film I saw during this opening stretch of the festival was *Krugovi* (thats Circles to me and you). The film takes one horrific moment from the Serbo-Croat-Bosnian war and follows the characters connected with this one act of violence 12 years on. It was a massively ambitious Europe hopping piece – the type of brilliant film that you would probably never come across by yourself.

Not reading any PR or watching any trailers made for a refreshing cinema going experience – next time you’re going to a film try avoiding reviews, blurbs and trailers – and next time there’s a film/art/book/ festival going on in the city make that extra effort to get out and about and see what’s happening.

CULTURE

Culture Editor: Joseph Conroy culture@edition.ie

Sex and the City, looking back after ten years

Lauren O'Halleron remembers the show, 10 years after its TV finale

It has been 10 years since the lovely ladies of *Sex and the City* bowed out of our small screens and became cemented in constant reruns. For 6 years, we followed Carrie Bradshaw, Charlotte York, Miranda Hobbes and Samantha Jones as they fell in love, had their hearts broken, married, divorced and dated practically every guy in Manhattan they conveniently never saw again once they were disposed of!

Based on the book by Candace Bushnell, *SATC* opened up the world of dating in modern day New York City through the eyes of four single and completely different thirty-something women. Each episode brought with it new men, new daring outfits and new memorable moments that left lasting impressions on its viewers.

When asked what you'd consider to be a classic moment, the first

thing that comes to everyone's mind is "funky spunk", need I say more? Carrie's steamy affair with Mr Big provided the thrills, Samantha's battle with breast cancer provided the tears, Charlotte's quest for true love provided the giggles, and Miranda's...well, Miranda provided a bit of each!

If you're not a New Yorker, it may seem almost unbelievable that some of the plotlines featured in this show could actually happen in real life, but don't be so sure! Remember Miranda's humorous confession after learning that Carrie had been dumped by a post-it note? "I was once broken up with by a guy's doorman!" It turns out that it was art imitating life, as this actually happened to one of the writers!

It has also provided lessons in love for the novice dater with the infamous line that led to a book and a movie: 'he's just not that into you'. And if you make that memorable trek into



The proper one, the smart one, the bitchy one and the promiscuous one – which one are you?

Memorable quote

“ [Samantha on oral sex]: “You men have no idea what we’re dealing with down there. Teeth placement and jaw stress, and suction, and gag reflex, and all the while bobbing up and down moaning and trying to breathe through our noses. Easy? Honey, they don’t call it a job for nothin’!”

Manhattan, you will discover the *Sex and the City* tour which visits some of the show's hot spots, and in turn, has boosted business for some of the spots.

The show didn't go without its controversy. The Society of Uncircumcised Men, a group no one heard of until season 2 of the show, raised concern when an episode featured Charlotte referring to her boyfriend's uncircumcised penis as a sharpei. Sorry, boys!

Unlike *Friends*, the guest stars were modest and didn't drown every second episode, the Los Ange-

les double bill excluded. Well known TV stars popped up such as Sarah Michelle Gellar and David Duchovny (ironic?) with some big names like Heather Graham, Matthew McConaughey and, um...Geri Halliwell.

From lazy ovaries to depressed vaginas, *SATC* had no limits to what it featured. It is no wonder fans were heartbroken when the series came to an end in 2004. However, it turned out not to be the end when a feature-length movie was released five years later in 2009, followed by a sequel. Still not satisfied? The rumour mill is turning with hints of a third instalment, so fingers crossed!

In defence of pro-wrestling

GAVIN LACEY



‘Wrestling is fake’. ‘There’s not enough blood’. ‘There are no good wrestlers anymore’. Yawn. You sound like a sheep with a thyroid problem.

These are the arguments that are aimed directly at the modern day wrestling fan and they’re all extremely terrible. I’m here to lay the Smackdown on why these arguments are so misguided and I’ll provide the bottom line on why being an adult wrestling fan in 2014 is no bad thing.

The main argument that’s put against wrestling again and again is that it’s ‘fake’. It’s time that this issue is clarified. Wrestling may be pre-determined, the punches may not make full contact but the risks are most definitely real. These ath-

letes put their bodies through unimaginable suffering all for the sake of entertainment. Jumping off ladders, taking serious bumps from leaping from the top rope, having your back bounce off the rock hard surface of the ring canvas every night – to call what these men and women do ‘fake’ is an insult. If you want to see people really punching each other in the bloody face and hurtling each other into walls I suggest you hang around Dublin City Centre on Saturday night.

Another element of the ‘fake’ argument is that the matches are scripted. It’s true, that before the wrestlers enter the ring, they know who will win. But the real beauty is how the winner is decided.

Backstage politics runs rife in the WWE and how who will win is decided is truly fascinating. Take right now for instance – Triple H is married to Stephanie McMahon, the boss’ (Vince McMahon) daughter. Triple H has been handed a lot of power over the last few years and this



Triple H, courting controversy

power has allowed him to make decisions that benefit his friends more than the average wrestler who takes no days off to try and get a shot at the main event.

This is reflected in the main event of Wrestlemania this year. The proposed match at the moment is Randy Orton vs. Batista. Triple H used to be in a team with both wrestlers and

he has allowed Batista to walk right back into the WWE after a four-year absence and win the Royal Rumble. This decision has aggravated a lot of fans who have hoped that Daniel Bryan, a wrestler who has been a fan favourite for over two years, would be in the main event.

To see Daniel Bryan being completely overlooked in favour of Batista has really incensed WWE fans and now it is delicious to see Triple H and WWE slowly backtracking over their decision due to fan outrage.

Wrestling is an art. To simply dismiss it as ‘fake’ is nothing but pure ignorance. It is a storytelling exercise that implements elements of real life and fantasy. It features larger than life characters who risk their bodies and lives for the entertainment of those who watch.

The passion is real, the dedication is real, and the injuries that these athletes acquire are real and if you’re not down with that, I’ve got two words for ya...

“
Wrestling is an art.
To simply dismiss it
as 'fake' is nothing
but pure ignorance

INTERVIEW

Full Steam Ahead

Joseph Conroy meets the Australia-born, now Dublin-based Liza Flume

I first saw Liza Flume playing in Sweeney's on Dame Street during last year's Camden Crawl. We arrived at the downstairs venue halfway through the first song. It was like walking into a vacuum – our opening of the door sparked a volley of shushes and dirty looks from the crammed in audience. On the stage stood Liza, a loop pedal and a guitar. I ask her if she's aware of this respect she's given when playing live – she immediately replies that that's "the biggest compliment" she can get.

She's had a long journey from her childhood home outside of Sydney to hushed rooms in Dublin. She moved out to Sydney when she was young and spent time living on both coasts in the US and some more time travelling around Europe. She was moving around for 4 years before she settled in Dublin.

So what made her settle down here (for now at least)? Family ties helped but mainly it seems to be a

core group of friends that she made here during her travels – many of whom are connected to Toast Office, an independent label based in Dublin.

While she's always loved music she almost gave up on any dreams of it ever taking her anywhere while living in New York. She felt overawed by some talented people she met there. But a chance encounter with a loop pedal changed that for her.

After she settled in Dublin a friend lent her a loop pedal. The pedal allows musicians to loop phrases on top of each other – layering them into different arrangements in real time. Once she got to grips with the pedal she was liberated from the limitations of playing with just her voice and a guitar.

She says that the *Full Steam Ahead* EP came together quickly once she started working with loops. The release got picked up by a bunch of key Irish music blogs.

The EP highlights this looping style. It features no keys and almost no drums apart from the odd finger click, hand clap and other bits of percussion – the sparse arrangements bring her voice to the fore.

An album is next on the agenda – she says that she's almost finished the writing process. It seems that we can expect a slightly bigger sound from her new offerings. She's



Liza Flume: Near the end of an album-writing process

“After a lengthy laying out of the pros and cons of different types of labels, she eventually concludes that maybe she should have just said 'No comment'”

been working with a few different instruments and a producer who she's friends with. She's also putting a new live show, bringing in more percussion and samples.

When I ask about how she thinks she'll put the album out she seems to be genuinely unsure. On one hand there's the DIY route – Toast Office have always had punk ideals at their core and putting music out costs a fraction of what it used to. But she's conscious that the album needs to be done right – mastered to the highest standards and put out as a complete package with strong artwork and visuals. Its not enough for the album to be a good local release – she's trying to do something more.

While other local talents like Hozier and Soak have recently been snapped up by prominent labels,

given Liza's songwriting chops and vocal tone you could imagine a lot of people looking to work with her before the album is done.

After a lengthy laying out of the pros and cons of different types of labels she eventually concludes that maybe she should have just said 'No comment'. She has not received any offers as of yet but she's taking things as they come.

She points out that it's strange for her to be settled down somewhere for as long as she's been in Dublin. She seems to have a good outlook on life, she's happy to stay here from now and work in a cafe to get by while she finishes off the album and then see what happens.

She points out that she's never really had too many possessions because she's been traveling for so long – so it doesn't really feel like she has too much to lose.

OPINION

Pharrell Williams: once great, now just an eejit

EOGHAN MCNEILL



The worst thing about Pharrell Williams's Grammys hat is he knew he looked like a prick wearing it. He has eyes. I presume he owns a mirror or two. He knew rightly. He wore the thing to get a reaction. We, like the fools we are, handed it to him. We should've ignored him, like you would a bold child throwing a tantrum. Reaction to the hat, positive or negative, saw Google searches for the man increase by 5000%.

Pharrell is fan of Paolo Coelho's *The Alchemist*: "That book confirmed what I always thought in my heart and felt in my mind". He tweets about it. He sends fans who have subscribed to his quarterly mailing list copies of the book, complete with post-it fea-

turing his notes on the text.

The Alchemist is the ultimate in "smart" books for stupid people. Pharrell's fangirling of the book is reminiscent of that guy from your secondary school who read *The Da Vinci Code* before everyone else and pushed it on you, swearing it was "like, the best book you'll ever read."

'Blurred Lines' – The Robin Thicke tune produced by Pharrell – is, depending who you talk to, either the pop song of 2013, or unfiltered misogyny captured in music. To be honest, I'm not sure which is closer the truth. I am sure the debate is probably the most boring, tedious discourse I've come across since my transition year debating classes. It's taken all the fun out of the song for me. It's gotten to the point where I can't go for a sly dance to the tune on nights out without considering whether I'm perpetuating the oppressive power of the patriarchy.

'Happy', the lead single from his



Pharrell Williams in 'the hat' at this year's Grammy Awards.

GIRL album – released this week – has featured on the *Despicable Me 2* soundtrack. *Despicable Me 2*. A film for children. Equally, the song is one for children, bereft of any sentiment more interesting than "I'm happy, clap along if you know what happi-

“Whatever Pharrell may be now, he used to be the best producer in Hip Hop. Before he started wearing stupid hats”

ness is to you". As if the lyrics lifted from a toddler's nursery rhyme aren't bad enough, the song features a Motown-light production, kind of like a Bruno Mars song, only more impotent. If you can imagine that.

So, Pharrell is a bit of a prick. He's

become a bit of a prick at least. Despite the ridiculous hat-wearing, despite the questionable literature choices, despite 'Happy', I still have time for the man.

Why? Well, I remember The Neptunes, the production team he formed with Chad Hugo. Together, they were responsible for the production on Snoop Dogg's 'Drop it like it's Hot', for Kelis's 'Caught out There', for more obscure songs that you probably won't get the reference to.

Do yourself a favour this week. Don't listen to *GIRL*, Pharrell's new release. Listen to his production on Nothin' by N.O.R.E. Listen to 'Tit 4 Tat', the 2004 track he produced for Fabolous. Feck it, listen to 'Hot in Herre' by Nelly – he produced that too. Singular, progressive yet still familiar. Whatever Pharrell may be now, he used to be the best producer in hip hop. Before he started wearing stupid hats.

SPORT

Sports Editors: Piers Moyles & Ryan Nugent sports@edition.ie

INTERVIEW

The man who opened the doors

Former GAA President Sean Kelly, speaks to **Ben Finnegan** about Rule 42 and the future of the association

Many GAA Presidents have come and gone, but none have stuck in the public's mind like Sean Kelly.

The first Kerryman to become the President of the GAA, and now MEP for the South Constituency oversaw the GAA go through the biggest transition in its history – Rule 42. The change was needed as Lansdowne Road was going under a major redevelopment, and without the change Irish soccer and rugby teams would have had to play their games in England or France, talking on the subject Sean Kelly said:

“I think it was something that many people thought wouldn't happen. When it did happen many people were dubious about how it would affect the GAA itself; and then it

couldn't have panned out any better in terms of the way the public at large responded to games being played in Croke Park.”

He continued by explaining the situation as why this was needed: “I happened to be President at a time when this decision had to be made one way or the other. If it wasn't made in 2005, 2006 would have been too late, because the necessity would be gone...so the fact that I believed in it...it helped me focus my mind on it.

“I felt myself, and I felt many other people felt the same that it would be a crying shame if the Irish rugby and soccer teams had to play their home games in England or France, after spending so much time trying to establish our independence...the GAA would have been blamed.

“But, I had gotten letters, even off my own uncles and down the bottom of the letter would be: ‘Ná hóiscail na doirse’ – Don't open the doors’. So it was a very difficult issue, because it was a huge change.”

In the GAA nowadays, the issue of burnout is continually being brought up and so many questions are being asked of the GAA. During his tenure he made great bounds to improving relations between the GAA and the GPA (Gaelic Players Association) he told a story about



Sean Kelly: “We have to make decisions on medical science. What is good for a player, not what is good for a team.” Pictured centre, receiving an honorary doctorate from DIT in 2007

“
I felt it would be a crying shame if the Irish rugby and soccer teams had to play their home games in England or France, after spending so much time trying to establish our independence
”

that he couldn't meet Dessie Farrell, Chief Executive of the GPA in Croke Park as there was so much opposition to the GPA, but met him at the Burlington Hotel.

“Player burnout is a big issue, and there is a lot of talk about it. Sometimes I wonder have we the same enthusiasm to take action we need to take. One example, the proposition of minor interprovincial teams having backdoor, I've never agreed with that – it's okay for seniors. But minors have school and club commitments, they're also playing junior or intermediate football and Under 21, it doesn't make sense.

“We have to make decisions on medical science. What is good for a player, not what is good for a team.

Evidence has to be taken onboard and it is really demanding that underage players have to turn up to every training session. They might play a match on a Tuesday, and on the Wednesday they have a training session with another panel, and the manager insists that they are there; there has to be cooperation across the board.”

He continued by saying the GAA need to set out guidelines and stick to them for the welfare of players, their longevity and for the state of the game in general.

“For underage players especially, the decision needs to be taken out of the player's hands, because if the player wants to play, they will play.”

Intervarsities round-up: Water polo beats the odds, Badminton secures first win

DIT Kite Surfing to host tournament in Wexford
Mountaineering Club also takes part in competition at Queen's

Sinead Farrelly
SPORTS EDITOR

The arrival of second semester brought with it the annual intervarsity competitions for many of DIT's diverse sports teams.

So far this year DIT has already enjoyed some success and has yet to compete in several more events. The college will also be co-hosting competitions over the coming weeks.

The badminton club enjoyed a very successful intervarsity competition sending a total of 22 players across both their A and B teams. They also had their first win in any competition when their A side won the plate.

Badminton club chairman Adam McMurray was very pleased with how the two teams competed in the competition.

“The standard was high in the badminton intervarsities this year. The A team won the plate against tough opposition and the B team played very well considering they were in a tough group and none of them had played at intervarsities” He said.

DIT's women's water polo team also achieved success at their intervarsity when they won the competition, despite only having six members on their team as opposed to the standard seven.

Last weekend DIT's mountaineering club went to Queen's University



DIT Badminton achieved their first win at intervarsities, with A-Team success

Belfast to compete in rock climbing. Club captain Niamh Durkin was very excited at the prospect of the weekend: “We're super excited for this year's intervarsities. It should be a great weekend up in Belfast.

“The climbing intervarsities are

always a highlight in the club's calendar and this year we have a strong team and should be able to compete well. We're very excited to see what this year's competition has to offer.”

One of DIT's newest societies is

kite surfing and DIT are co-hosting the first intervarsity competition of the sport in Ireland alongside Trinity College, UCD and RCSI.

Ryan O'Hare from the DIT kite and wake club spoke about how he's looking forward to the inaugural competition and how he hopes it will grow in coming years:

“We're hosting the varsities in Duncannon beach Co. Wexford, I've kite surfed there before so I know the area from other competitions I've been in before.

“All the colleges chose that area together because it is right next to the village and accommodation is available through hostels and homes owned by the school that are nearby.

“We know that there's not going to be a very strong level of competition with kite surfing being a relatively new sport, so we are mainly focussing on the social aspect of it and trying to build awareness for next year.” He said.

INTERVIEW

DIT star leaves a solid legacy for college's ladies football

DIT ladies footballer Amy Ring met with *The Edition's* **Sinéad Farrelly** to discuss the championship, the league and Gaelic football in Boston, as she approaches the end of her final season with the college

Last year the DIT ladies team reached the final of the Lynch Cup, however this year's championship start has not exactly gone to plan with an opening match loss to CIT on the 18th Feb.

Amy admitted that it was a tough start: "Yeah last week's defeat was a tough pill to swallow because we beat them last year in the group stages and we felt confident going down to Cork.

"Things on the day just didn't go our way, we felt a little bit hard done by, but after the match we just had to re-group and accept the fact that it was going to be really hard to get out of the group".

Last semester the ladies team competed in division three of the women's football league. Despite suffering a heavy opening defeat to a strong UCD outfit, DIT picked up towards the latter half of the league. Amy was pleased overall with the league, especially as the team improved upon last year.

"The league last semester was okay overall. We had a bad loss against UCD, but in fairness they had seven first division players playing in the third division with us so it wasn't really a fair comparison.

"But we had some good wins, we beat Sligo and a couple of other teams. It was better than last season; in last year's league we were hammered in every game but even still we went on to get into the Lynch final. We were hoping for a repeat of that again this year."

The Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Association (DLGFA) has the largest number of members in the

country and the numbers involved with women's football nationwide have been growing over recent years. However, DIT are struggling hugely to get a large panel together for their women's team.

Amy believes that this may be in part down to the large, spread out nature of the DIT campuses in comparison to other Dublin colleges.

"Yeah there is a big issue getting girls to sign up to play football. I think that it might have something to do with the fact that the college is so spread out that it's hard to get everyone together. We don't have a base pitch or anything like that so the girls find it hard to come in.

"In colleges like UCD and DCU they just have the one pitch and they are all pretty much within walking distance whereas for us we have to get a bus to go out and then again to come back and so it is hard to hang onto a lot of players because while the players are in college it is not the most accessible."

When DIT finishes the move to the new Grangegorman campus, to be completed by 2017, they will finally have a set up of their own on campus pitches. If Amy's theory is right, this change to facilities could help boost the number of female footballers to possibly even match that of the men's football, who currently have two separate squads covering both freshers and seniors.

Last year Amy went on a J1 to Boston and continued to play Gaelic football while working there. She said that it is a rather different situation to play in than her usual Foxrock Cabinteely set up, particularly concerning physicality and levels of



Amy Ring in action for Connacht

“ There is a big issue getting girls to sign up to play football. I think it might have something to do with the college being so spread out, it's hard to get everyone together

– Amy Ring ”

fitness.

"It is definitely different playing Gaelic football over in the States. The game is very physical and you have to be a lot fitter to play over there.

"Obviously playing the amount of football that I do, you have to have a good level of fitness but over there it is completely different because you can be playing in 30 degrees heat.

"Training's a lot harder; we were training four times a week over there which is nearly what I'd be playing over here."

The leisure management student continued on to describe how high the standard of football was and how her team achieved some successes by reaching the North American final.

"The football's really good over there though! We got to the final, I was living in Boston and we played a team from San Francisco and they were just like an All Star team. The standard would be more or less the

same in America, I'd put it nearly on a par because so many girls are going over there to play now.

Our team was made up of nearly all county players; there were girls from Tyrone, Armagh and Meath. It's like you're playing county players over there and it is a very high standard.

I did learn a lot over there, especially within the physicality side of it anyway thanks to those Northern girls! It definitely gave me something anyway to come back to Dublin with."

Amy has now returned to her DIT base at the Cathal Brugha street campus to complete the final year of her degree and the right corner forward will certainly be a loss to the DIT ladies team when she leaves at the end of this year.

DIT's championship this year has been disappointing so far with a four point loss to WIT on the 27th of Feb, however, with an improving league performance, and the promise of better facilities in years to come, all is not lost for DIT ladies football.

PREVIEW

St Pat's to set the standard this year

Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR

It's that time of the year again, and the League of Ireland is back this Friday, and although it's a cliché, this season really does promise to be better than ever.

Added to an evidently improved quality of football witnessed over the past couple seasons, firstly by the likes of Sligo Rovers when they took the title in 2012 and even more so by the easy on the eye ball play of Liam Buckley's champions St Patrick's Athletic, is the return to the country of two Irish Internationals.

Both of which are set to be plying their trade in the Airtricity League, one of which is up there with the league's finest exports.

Yes, Keith Fahey and Stephen McPhail are set to grace Irish football with much welcomed quality for St Patricks Athletic and Shamrock Rovers respectively.

However, this hasn't been the only additions to two of the busier sides in terms of quality signings, as St Pat's captain Conor Kenna has taken a trip up the red Luas line to Tallaght to join the Hoops, while James Chambers and Mark Quigley have left D24 to return to the Saints in Inchicore.

The strengthening in first team talent, makes the champion's firm favourites to retain their title and possibly add an elusive FAI Cup to their cabinet. Yet with midfield dynamo Johnny Russell moving back west, to Sligo, it won't be easy.

At the bottom, expect it to be a dog-fight between a number of clubs. No matter how lacking in talent they are, Bray Wanderers always seem to stay up, so too do UCD. Surely something has got to give this time round. Bohemians struggled last season and the break has supplied no indication that they'll find it any easier this time round.

Dark horse wise, Derry City may be the best outsider bet to have a title tilt, but it'd be naive not to bet your grant money on the title staying in Inchicore for another season.

Champions:
St Pat's

Europe:
Sligo, Shamrock Rovers, Derry

Relegated:
Bray

Relegation play off:
UCD

SPORT

Sports Editors: Piers Moyles & Ryan Nugent sports@edition.ie

In BOD
we trustSIMON
MAGUIRE
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

Barring injury, Brian O'Driscoll will wear the green of Ireland at home for the very last time against Italy this Saturday. One is confined by the limitations of the English language when describing what BOD has meant to Irish rugby. He is our Zidane (or rather, Zidane was the French O'Driscoll).

The highest scoring centre in world rugby made his debut in Brisbane against Australia in 1999, lining up opposite one of his idols, Tim Horan. A hat-trick against France in 2000 helped Ireland to a first win in Paris in 28 years and the world took note as a legend was born.

A stunning solo try for the Lions against World Champions Australia in Brisbane in the first test of the 2001 tour cemented his standing as the greatest centre playing at the time. Once Keith Wood retired after the 2003 world cup, Eddie O'Sullivan promoted the young centre to the national captaincy and he has since delivered the best win ratio of any man at the helm of Irish rugby.

Our finest player of the professional era crosses the Lansdowne white line this weekend for the final time

Arguably his crowning achievement was leading Ireland to the six nation's grand slam in 2009, our first clean sweep since 1948. He scored crucial tries against France, England and Wales in that tournament. He even dropped a goal in the closely fought match with England, when Ronan O'Gara's radar was faulty, despite being on the receiving end of some dubiously late tacking from the visitors. Ireland continued the year unbeaten with a gruelling victory over South Africa in Croke Park and then a last gasp O'Driscoll try under the posts salvaged a draw against Australia.

The World Cups were not a happy hunting ground for BOD. Disappointing early exits in 1999, 2003 and 2007 looked to be distant memories as the team steamrolled through all before them in their 2011 group in New Zealand, turning the tournament on its head, before being stifled by Wales in the quarter-final. A victory over New Zealand eluded the great man but beating New Zealand isn't the making of a player, despite what the Kiwi's like to think.

As our finest player of the professional era crosses the white line at Lansdowne Road this weekend for the final time, all we can but do is applaud a man who brought great pride to this island and will always remain a national treasure. In BOD we trusted and he never let us down.

Tough conditions and defensive errors end DIT's Lynch Cup hopes

WIT 5-09(24)
DIT 2-14(20)Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR

DIT Senior Ladies football side will be left rueing defensive errors as they were dumped out of the Lynch Cup at the group stage by a free-scoring Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT).

"Great weather for a game of football" commented an on-looker at Saint Margaret's GAA club, Swords. Yeah, well maybe if we're comparing it to Antarctica, I suppose. It was Baltic conditions, but that didn't seem to affect play at all, as relentless pace was the order of the day, with both teams going at each other again, and again.

It was a game between two sides, with little between them in terms of quality, but three minutes of madness, just past the first half's midway point proved to be decisive as DIT's Munster counterparts created havoc for the capital's IT, scoring two goals in the blink of an eye, Katie Redmond scoring the pick of them.

It wouldn't be the only time Redmond would cause her opponents trouble on the night.

The scoreline was 3-4 to 1-2 in favour of Waterford at this stage, and they almost moved entirely out of sight immediately after, but the post saved DIT's blushes, for the time being.

And although DIT came back into it, bit by bit in the first 30, there was still a big gap to be bridged as the second half threw in. The half time break saw WIT in total charge, 3-6 to 1-5. It almost looked as if the home team had never played together. They were that out of sorts.

A point possibly made at during the team talk, with strong words being shouted by the DIT management



Amy Ring shows her frustration as DIT Senior Ladies football lost out by four points in a tough match versus Waterford IT

team, while the team itself huddled together, issuing some home truths to each while also encouraging each other to get their act together.

And that's exactly what they did, to an extent.

A completely different DIT ran out for the second half, charging at their opponents with the tenacity that was evidently missing in the opening exchange - midfielder, Emma McDonagh, certainly a big factor in this resurgence, as she took on two opponents to plant the ball over the bar in determined fashion.

And that was only the beginning, as Dublin footballer Amy Ring proved why she's so highly thought of in the capital by pointing numerous frees and finding her teammates with pin point passing.

Yet, just as the crowd were beginning to think a major comeback was

We fought back in the second half but I think the mountain was just too high to climb in the end

– Pat Strich,
DIT manager

on the cards, WIT's Marie Dargan lashed another goal home for the away side, and a point immediately afterwards brought the score difference back to seven points.

Surely too much to do for DIT? Well they battled on and thanks to some more fantastic play from Ring, McDonagh buried the ball into the top corner of the net.

However, just as before, when DIT thought they were in with a shout, WIT scored a fifth goal and ended any hope of Lynch Cup progress for DIT's ladies.

"We fought back in the second half, but I think the mountain was just too high to climb in the end.

"They finished strongly and that's all I could've asked from them at half time," conveyed DIT manager Pat Strich in the aftermath of the defeat.

DIT Frisbee hold on to seeding position

Matthew Colfer
SPORTS REPORTER

DIT Ultimate Frisbee Club held their 7 place seeding in horrendous conditions at Outdoor Mixed Intervarsitys on Saturday 22 February, with last year's runners up UCD1 finishing up as tournament winners.

DIT were in a group with first seeds UCC and fourth seeds UL.

After a strong start against UCC in the first game of the day the Cork side proved too strong for the Dublin college as they pulled away to win on a score-line of 13-3.

The game against UL started almost immediately and despite missing most of their Under-23 Open players, the Munster team were comprehensive winners, 13-4.

Having failed to improve their seeding in the group stage DIT had to win

both of their round robin games in order to retain their seeding.

This task was made easier due to NUI Maynooth failing to show up to their first round robin game against DIT due to a miscommunication and resulting in the latter being given a 13-0 walkover.

DIT's last match of the day was against a developing UCD2 team and it was an easy win for the former coming away with 7 points to spare to

retain their 7 place seeding.

DIT's female MVP was Niamh Meighan who was also voted Most Spirited Player by her team-mates while Matthew Colfer was male MVP for the team.

Team: Aidan Kelly (co-captain), Niamh Meighan (co-captain), Shaun Cullen, Aoife Delaney, Oscar Gonzales, Aoife O'Neill, Peter Mahon, Aislinn McCooey, James Cantwell, Emma O'Leary and Matthew Colfer.

INTERVIEW

Leading a new generation of DIT and Dublin hurlers



Credit: HE GAA

Joe Fortune has dealt with some disappointment as DIT's Senior Hurling manager this year, but has plenty to look forward to with the college and Dublin's Under-21s

DIT's Senior Hurling manager, and now the Dublin Under-21 Hurling manager, Joe Fortune speaks to **Harry Hatton** about DIT's season and his new challenges

“It’s probably a bit early yet I have to give this Dublin thing everything I have for the next three months,” answered DIT senior hurling manager Joe Fortune about committing to the position for the 2014-15 season.

The ‘Dublin thing’ that Fortune is referring to is the role of under-21 hurling manager, which the Dublin County Board appointed him to when DIT were still in competitive action.

DIT’s Fitzgibbon Cup campaign came to an end on February 18 when they lost to Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in extra time at the quarter-final stage.

Fortune’s team were leading by 1-6 to 0-8 at half-time before being pegged back to a draw game, 1-10 to 0-13, at the full-time whistle. WIT were the dominant team in extra-time and duly won the last eight tie on a 1-21 to 1-14 score-line.

“I think the big influence was probably the fact what they had to bring in. I felt we were better than Waterford in real time. A couple of small mistakes like they were a point up, we had a penalty. We didn’t get a score from that [penalty],” said Fortune.

Fortune recognises with regret the lack of strength in depth at DIT compared to the bigger universities and I.T’s.

“I think that is the biggest problem I have come across in DIT for the last couple of years where your first 15 or 17 lads are very strong. It’s what you have after that. We found it hard to deal with the bigger teams.

“If you look at UCC they can leave a guy [Shane O’Donnell] who scores three goals in an All-Ireland final as a sub. That’s the harsh reality of it,” admitted Fortune.

Some on the DIT senior players had little time to dwell on their Fitzgibbon Cup exit as they were back in action that weekend with their counties in the National Hurling League.

“We had Kieran Bergin who started wing-forward for Tipperary. Liam Rushe was probably close to being man of the match against Clare in Parnell Park.

“You have Liam Óg McGovern who scored 1-2 for the Wexford seniors [against Offaly]” said the primary school teacher who hails from Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

Fortune has hope for other members of his DIT squad who are on county panels but are yet to make as much impact as Bergin, Rushe and

McGovern.

“Seanie McGrath, Niall McMorrogh on the door for the Dublin seniors. I feel they’ll have an impact to play at some stage this year for Dublin.”

Fortune has been the DIT hurling managers for two seasons now. One of his most abiding memories was witnessing some of his players display their talent at county level during the summer of 2013.

“He was seen as a forward, he received an All Star even as a forward and then last year they kind of built the team around him from centre-back and he ended up getting an All Star because of it” regarding Rushe’s exploits for Dublin who won

the Leinster SHC last July.

Fortune was also very pleased with Bergin’s progress in 2013, “Seeing Kieran Bergin going from not playing competitive hurling inter-county wise to given the whole Fitzgibbon thing a big shot and then starting the championship matches for Tipp.”

All third level college teams have to deal with the effects of losing players due to graduation. It’s vital that players from the Fresher team come in to the senior set-up to maintain the standards set by their predecessors.

“There is a very good Freshers team coming up from this year that would have been successful to a certain extent. They would have beaten UCD for the first time in a long time maybe ever competitively at Freshers level.

“You’ve guys like Sean McClelland coming along, a couple of very strong minors and under 21’s. There will be a big panel there next year for be it myself or whoever takes it over,” he said.

County will take precedence over college for Fortune for the next number of months. In 2007, Fortune was manager of the Dublin minors that won the Leinster championship.

Fast forward seven years and Fortune is the Dublin under-21 manager. His first task is overcoming Laois in the Leinster quarter-final at Parnell Park on May 28.

If the Wexford native was to guide the Dubs to a sixth Leinster under-21 crown, it would surely go a long way to helping him get over the Fitzgibbon Cup disappointment with DIT.

“There is a very good Freshers team coming up from this year
— Joe Fortune

EDITORIAL

We might get there, but Euro 2016 is diluted

RYAN NUGENT
SPORTS EDITOR



You must have, at some stage, thought to yourself while watching the drab encounter between Slovenia and Algeria at the South African World Cup, that this isn’t what top class international football is supposed to be about.

Actually, scratch that. You probably didn’t bother watching such a boring clash between two, at best, average teams. Either that or you’ve repressed it from your memory.

So apart from the odd decent match-up, the first week of football at the World Cup is a write-off, agreed?

Well you better get used to it, because instead of having boring group stages that nobody watches every four years, we’ll be treated to it every two years.

Yes, thanks Mr Platini for deciding to destroy the European Championships for the neutral. In 2012 we had an estimated say 12/16 teams that were of a good standard for competitive, interesting matches.

We were the whipping boys, but at least there was no mistaking the standard of football and footballers expected at the Euros

We had Italy, Croatia and Spain in the same group. Let’s not forget Germany, Portugal and the Netherlands.

Now however, almost half of Europe is getting the invite to France in 2016. There’s now no elite competition in International Football, well possibly apart from the Confederations Cup, but does anyone take that seriously?

Yes I know the smaller countries lobbied for it, like us Irish, and it means we’re almost guaranteed have a trip to mainland Europe in June 2016, but where is the sense of achievement?

The boys in green had their a**e handed to them in Poland granted, but at least we rightly earned our place there and not much else could be expected from that group.

We were the whipping boys but at least there was no mistaking the standard of football and footballers expected at the Euros.

Added to an already inept plan with Financial Fair Play, Platini has messed up again. This time diluting the standards of a perfectly good tournament.

THE EDITION Sport

Interview:
Sean Kelly

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Credit: DIT GAA

The Edition sports radio show launched

Piers Moyles
SPORTS EDITOR

As I'm sure you're all aware The Edition launched its first ever podcast, "Played in the Clouds" last month and it is already four episodes old.

The Edition's co-sports editors Piers Moyles and Ryan Nugent as well as host Kevin O'Mahony, take a weekly look at the sporting goings on at DIT as well as the premier league and other prominent sporting events.

"It's something that we've thought about doing for a while", said Ryan Nugent. "Myself, Piers and Kevin are really passionate about it and I think that it only adds to the sports section and the paper as a whole."

The Edition's Sports Editors, with host Kevin O'Mahony, take a weekly look at sporting goings-on in DIT

The co-sports editor went on to say, "A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and it can be stressful at times but it's definitely worth it."

Discussions have ranged from Arsenal to taekwondo, Moyes to camogie and six nations to Muhammad Ali. "Played in the Clouds" caters for the needs of all sports junkies whether they are GAA enthusiasts or soccer aficionados.

The podcast tries to strike a balance between humour and serious in depth discussions and there's nobody better to give analysis of all sports in DIT.

Depending on the events during the week the show varies in length from between 20 and 35 minutes and it is released every Thursday.

The link to listen to the podcast is posted weekly along with each episode on the Edition's website and you can also find it on mixcloud.

Freshers Footballers crowned All-Ireland champions

DIT's Freshers A overcome their first obstacle as the college aims for three All-Ireland victories

Ryan Nugent
SPORTS EDITOR

DIT finished up convincing winners over St Mary's, Belfast in Monaghan on Friday, to claim an unprecedented third Freshers A All-Ireland title in seven years.

A cold but dry and bright Inniskeen Park in county was the setting for this years final and the game was nip and

tuck throughout. DIT led by four at the break but Marys shot back with four unanswered points at the beginning of the second half to tie up the game.

Riding their luck at the back with Logistics student Eoin Fletcher at corner back and Print & Digital Media student Brian Power at centre back repelling attack after attack.

DIT then pushed Robbie Gaughan forward from midfield into the half



(Above) DIT Freshers Captain Brian Power Lifts the Freshers All-Ireland Football trophy
(Left) DIT Freshers A Football Management team Eoghan O Grady and Thomas Bourke
(Left below) David McGrath and Cathal McGettigan



forward line and it immediately paid dividends. A big win in the middle by Engineering student Thomas Corcoran was the impetus for DIT's revival. He fed Robbie Gaughan who went on another piercing run.

This set up Seanie Daly inside who found the unmarked Ruairi Ó Coilleain to fist to the net. From the resulting kick out Daly tagged on another score, which seem to stop Mary's in their tracks.

Points from Darren McElroy and Ruairi O Coilleain closed out the game for the Dublin College.

DIT joint management Eoghan O Grady a lecturer from DIT School of Management and Galway native Thomas Bourke were thrilled and paid tribute to St. Marys. "It was a really tough game, the six point score line flattered us, but we are so proud of the lads and the effort they have put in all year.

"This is great for the lads, their parents who have supported them to this point and the college and their clubs.

"I think you're going to hear a whole lot more about these guys in the future both on the Sigerson stage and for some on the intercounty stage in the years to come. We hope they enjoyed their journey this year with the college and made friends along the way.

"It's been a great year for the college, now we won this we hope it will give inspiration to the B and C team who unbelievably are also in the B and C fresher All-Ireland Finals, which is some achievement in itself," said the manager.

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